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OAS team arrives in Panama

PANAMA CITY (AP) — The head of the Organisation of American States (OAS) arrived Tuesday to face a hostile government, but opponents of military leader Manuel Noriega vowed the OAS could help resolve the Panamanian crisis. OAS Secretary-General Jose Ramo Sousa, speaking at Panama's international airport, said the OAS delegation would meet government and opposition leaders to seek a solution to the crisis over the assassination of May 7 general elections. "We will have opportunities... to talk so that we can return to Washington and present to (the OAS) our report on June 6," Sousa said. He declined to answer questions about an OAS mission which attacked the mission, saying the government would not accept OAS mediation. Panama's cabinet, in a statement Monday night, said: "Our government welcomes any initiative which can establish the truth of the crisis as a conflict between Panama and the United States. But the Republic of Panama will never accept any act which constitutes interference in the sphere of its national sovereignty." The statement was signed by acting President Manuel Solis Palma and the 12 cabinet ministers. Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter, at the airport to greet Sousa, also blamed Panama's problems on the United States.

Soviets play down defection

ANKARA (AP) — The defection of a Soviet air force pilot with a MIG-29 to Turkey is an isolated incident and will not affect relations between the two countries, a Soviet official said Tuesday. Walter Sonia, minister councillor of the embassy, told reporters: "It would be best if such incidents did not occur. But this is an isolated incident and will not spoil our good neighbourly and friendly relations." Alexander Zuyev Saturday took off from the Takhkaya airfield north of Batumi after shooting a sautry who fired back, wounding him. He landed the jet fighter at Turkey's Black Sea coast city of Trabzon. Turkey returned the aircraft to the Soviet Union a day later but has not heeded a Soviet call for the extradition of the pilot whom Sonia said was a terrorist. Sonia said the Soviets appreciated the quick return of the plane, the most modern jet in the Soviet air force. Turks, in turn, appreciate the fact that two Soviet fighters which started chasing Zuyev's plane did not follow it once it entered Turkish airspace, the diplomat said. A Turkish official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that in many decades Turkey has not sent back any military person, from East or West, who has asked for asylum.

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Summit opens without Lebanon

Compiled by our staff from agency dispatches

CASABLANCA — An extraordinary Arab summit dedicated to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Lebanese strife and Egypt's reentry to the Arab League opened here Tuesday but the seat of Lebanon remained empty.

The formal opening of the summit was delayed by a closed-door informal debate by the Arab leaders over who would represent Lebanon at the summit and the outcome of the deliberations was not immediately clear.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, whose country was suspended by the Arab League 10 years ago over its separate peace treaty with Israel, took his seat in the conference hall at King Hassan of Morocco's palace alongside 17 other Arab heads of state, including leaders from Syria and Libya.

His Majesty King Hussein was expected to deliver a speech at the opening session.

The 18 heads of state and officials from three other states represented at lower level were welcomed by King Hassan on the steps of his palace in the northern suburbs of Casablanca, where the Lebanese flag was among 22 fluttering standards.

The king and other leaders have proposed that army commander Michel Aoun and Acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss should be invited to give their views to the summit on how to resolve the Lebanese crisis.

To avoid leaving the seat of one of the Arab League's founding members empty, one suggestion was that a Lebanese ambassador should occupy it.

But the ambassador in Rabat, Sami Knonfol, is a Sunni Muslim believed close to Hoss.

An alternative was Lebanon's permanent representative at the league's headquarters in Tunis, Suleiman Farah.

But he is Christian apparently unacceptable to Hoss.

The league's special Lebanon committee debated the issue Sunday but it reached no conclusion and referred it to the summit.

The summit, Egypt's first since 1979 and the Arab World's the best attended summit gathering since 1974, is expected to tackle three main issues currently facing the Arab World — the latest Palestinian peace initiative, the 15-year-old Lebanese civil war, and Egypt's formal readmittance into the Arab League. It is also expected to dilute some of the tensions in inter-Arab relations.

Kuwait, Somalia and Mauritania are represented here by prime ministers or ministers.

In the two days of preparatory meetings which preceded the summit, Arab foreign ministers failed to make considerable progress on the Palestinian problem, the Lebanese problem and the Iran-Iraq conflict.

A document presented by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) at the preparatory meetings was concerned mostly with the more than \$600 million in Arab funds which the PLO was promised by the 1988 summit in Algiers to continue the uprising against Israeli occupation. According to the PLO, barely 10 per cent of the pledges have been paid.

The PLO was expected to make an appeal in Casablanca urging Arab leaders to demand American agreement for establishing a Palestinian state and to reject Israel's peace proposal calling for elections in the occupied territories.

Most Arab states have welcomed Egypt's return to the Arab camp. Libyan leader Muammar



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday meets with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Casablanca

King holds consultations with ACC, other Arab leaders

CASABLANCA (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday held a series of meetings with other Arab leaders gathered here for the extraordinary Arab summit. Discussions during the meetings included a review of the current Arab situation, means for enhancing Arab solidarity and the summit agenda.

The King held an early meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on coordinating the position of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries — Jordan, Egypt, North Yemen and Iraq — and contribute to the success of the summit.

Qadhafi, who initially planned to boycott the summit because of Egypt's presence, said that Libya, along with Syria, Algeria and Tunisia, would oppose "any concession at the Arab summit and... boycott it if there was any hint of recognising Israel," the Libyan news agency, JANA, reported.

In a statement to Petra, Mubarak paid tribute to the King's commitment to and leading role in efforts to consolidate collective Arab action. He said Egypt would always recall King Hussein's positive stands.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz told Petra that the King's talks with President Hussein came within the framework of ACC coordination and consultations. He expressed hope that the Casablanca summit would succeed in positively addressing current Arab issues, including the Palestinian question, the Lebanese problem and the Iraq-Iran situation after eight years of war which came to an end in

August 1988 with a ceasefire.

The King also held talks with Fahd bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah — head of the Kuwaiti delegation to the summit — United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan, Emir of Bahrain Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa and Palestine President Yasser Arafat.

The King's meeting with Arafat included a luncheon which was attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and members of the delegation accompanying the King as well as the Palestinian team to the summit.

He told reporters the president, in meetings with Arab leaders, specifically referred to "Israeli forces and Syrian forces and any military forces under whatever guise in Lebanon."

Mubarak's top aide, Osama Al Baz, told Reuters Monday Mubarak would not compromise.



ARMY CELEBRATIONS: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday attended a celebration held by Prince Rashid Battalion to celebrate His Royal Highness Prince Rashid's 10th birthday and voiced pride in the achievements of the battalion. The Regent was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein and Prince Rashid. The battalion commander presented Prince Rashid with a gift on the occasion. Also Tuesday Prince Hassan and Prince Abdullah visited one of the formations of the fifth Armoured Division and listened to a briefing about its training programme and watched a military exercise.

Tension high in Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Battles erupted in Beirut Tuesday as the country braced for a major clash between rival forces amid deepening gloom that Arab leaders meeting in Morocco will be able to find a settlement to halt the bloodletting.

Police said at least three dozen shells fired from west Beirut hit the rightist-controlled coastline around the ancient port of Byblos, 30 kilometres north of the capital.

The shelling, which caused no casualties or serious damage, was aimed at preventing ships carrying arms to forces loyal to Army Commander Michel Aoun besieged in an 800-square kilometre enclave.

Aoun's military units, along with opposing Syrian peacekeepers and allied militiamen, were reported to be resupplying artillery and rocket batteries Tuesday for a widely anticipated eruption of major fighting.

"No one's making a secret of it," said a police spokesman, who cannot be named under standing regulations.

The Arab League has been trying to halt the fighting that broke out March 8 when Aoun blockade illegal troops run by militias in a bid to restore the government's authority, long eroded in Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war.

Adding fuel to the tension Tuesday, Aoun vowed to drive Syrian troops from Lebanon or die trying, and said the real fighting had yet to begin.

Aoun, speaking in the basement of the shell-cratered presidential palace, also demanded the Arab summit in Casablanca act to solve the Lebanese crisis.

Aoun, who heads a military cabinet vying for power since last September with a civilian government led by Salim Hoss, was asked what he would do if the summit failed to act on Lebanon.

"I will take the necessary measures needed for (Lebanese) independence. Maybe I will be obliged to fight but if they have another alternative certainly I will take it."

"They are obliged to discuss Lebanese problems... and take decisions. If they are not willing to do it, the Arab League is in danger."

Aoun said it would be better if Lebanon were not formally represented at the summit.

"If Lebanon is not represented at (the summit), it would be very good because the Arabs would openly discuss our problems," he said, adding that he would be ready to discuss Lebanon directly with Syria at the meeting.

Palestinian killed by stone; 6 injured

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and wounded six Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip Tuesday during a general strike called to mark the start of the extraordinary Arab summit in Casablanca, Morocco, hospital officials said.

On Monday, a Palestinian was killed by a stone thrown at his car by Israelis, and unidentified assailants opened fire at police in the occupied West Bank and at army soldiers hitchhiking in the Naqurah desert.

The death of the 42-year-old Palestinian was the first reported since Israelis started stoning Palestinian-owned cars two weeks ago after an Israeli soldier was found dead in the area, just north of the occupied Gaza Strip.

The death of the army sergeant and the disappearance of a second soldier nearby have been blamed on Palestinians. In the Gaza Strip, mean-

while, Palestinian farmers reported troops had bulldozed about 20 acres of Arab orchards and seized the land to build what appeared to be a military road.

Appeal to summit

A Palestinian appeal to be presented to the Arab summit in Casablanca urges Arab leaders to demand American agreement for establishing a Palestinian state and to reject Israel's peace plan, a newspaper said Tuesday.

The appeal to the summit was published by the Al Fajr daily. It described the document as being from the State of Palestine.

The appeal urged Arab states to form a "higher committee" to support Palestinian peace proposals, which call for Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip and an international peace conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Khomeini undergoes surgery for bleeding

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iranian revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, 86, underwent surgery Tuesday to stem internal bleeding, Tehran Radio reported.

Quoting a statement from the Shi'ite Muslim leader's office, the radio said an operation to control bleeding of the digestive tract was successful and his condition was "completely satisfactory."

In Paris, Ayatollah Mehdi Rouhani, spiritual leader of the European Shi'ite community, called the AP to say he had information that Khomeini had "lost a great deal of blood" and was in "precarious" condition.

He would not say who his sources were or provide further details.

The Tehran Radio report said it was not known where the operation took place.

The unexpected report that Khomeini was ailing followed weeks of political upheaval in Iran after the revolutionary leader dumped his designated successor, Ayatollah Hussein-Ali Montazeri last month.

Last week Khomeini's son Ahmad published a long diatribe against Montazeri, 64, for questioning his father's policies.

Ahmad, 43, has long been a close aide of his father and his attack on Montazeri underlined his increasingly high political profile.

Khomeini appointed a 20-man committee last month to review the succession question and recommend changes to the 1979 constitution to correct what he called "flaws and imperfections."

So far, the committee, composed of senior political, legal and religious figures, has concentrated on the shape of the future government.

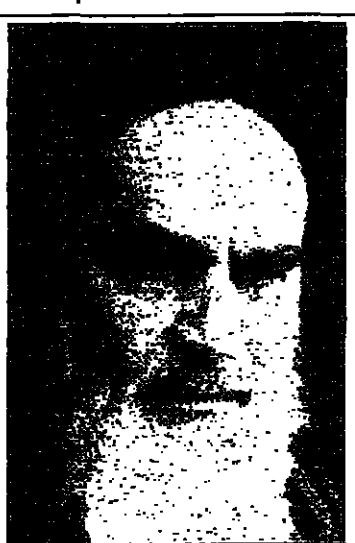
Tehran newspapers said the committee was likely to give more power to the presidency, possibly by scrapping the premiership, to eliminate competing power centers that have paralysed the decision-making process during 10 years of revolutionary rule.

The signs were that in the absence of any single figure with the patriarch's political and religious authority, Iran will likely be governed by a collective leadership.

Iran has never officially confirmed persistent reports that Khomeini, who has not appeared on state television for several weeks, was suffering from cancer of the bowel or prostate.

The ascetic spiritual leader of Iran's 1979 revolution suffered a mild heart attack in 1980 but has otherwise appeared in good health.

Khomeini signalled a radical turn in Iranian politics in February when he called for the killing of British author Salman Rushdie



Ayatollah Khomeini for blaspheming the Islamic faith in his book "The Satanic Verses."

The affair fuelled Islamic fervour within Iran but alienated Western states who had hoped the country would take a more pragmatic line following the August 1988 ceasefire in the eight-year Gulf War with Iraq.

Shortly after the Rushdie affair, Khomeini forced the resignation of Montazeri from his position as designated successor to the supreme Islamic leader under Iran's theocratic 1979 constitution.

Several other Iranian officials regarded as favouring an opening to the west were purged.

Analysts say the favourite to inherit political power in Iran is Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Moscow readies congress agenda

MOSCOW (R) — Signs emerged Tuesday that top officials were trying to limit the powers of the new-style Soviet parliament as the leadership prepared an agenda for the Congress of People's Deputies, which opens Thursday.

The new, more powerful parliament was elected in the country's first multi-candidate elections in March as part of President Mikhail Gorbachev's political reform drive.

TASS news agency said the presidium of the old rubber-stamp parliament, the Supreme Soviet, submitted documents for consideration by the congress and the smaller chamber it will elect as a standing parliament.

TASS initially said the presidium was considering asking the smaller chamber — to be called the Supreme Soviet — to approve recent presidium decrees.

This would bypass the 2,250-member congress, whose progressive members have said they want to rewrite a controversial decree passed by the presidium April 8 which allows people to be jailed for "discrediting" the state.

But a later TASS report after the presidium meeting said nothing about who would approve the decrees, suggesting that the proposal had been rejected, the issue was unresolved, or there was a news blackout on the decision.

Several deputies from Moscow have called for the congress to consider the April 8 decree along with a review of laws on everything from the use of troops against demonstration to economic reform.

Some deputies such as former dissident Andrei Sakharov go further, demanding that the congress be the sole legislative organ and not delegate authority to the smaller body of more than 500 deputies, to be called the Supreme Soviet.

Ligachev hits back, page 8

START negotiations to resume June 19

WASHINGTON (R) — Secretary of State James Baker said Tuesday the United States and the Soviet Union would resume negotiations on reducing strategic nuclear weapons June 19.

"The United States and the Soviet Union have now agreed on the date of June 19 to restart the START negotiations," Baker said at a White House news briefing.

The strategic arms reduction talks (START), which have as their goal a 50 per cent cut in U.S. and Soviet stockpiles of intercontinental ballistic mis-

siles and other strategic nuclear arms, were on hold pending completion of a U.S. policy review.

Baker, briefing reporters on President George Bush's trip to Europe for the May 29-30 North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) summit in Brussels, also said the United States and West Germany were still at odds on conditions for negotiating with Moscow on short-range nuclear missiles.

"There still is a gap to bridge," the secretary said.

Washington last week softened its opposition to talks on

reducing missiles with ranges of less than 480 kilometres, but said "significant conditions" must be met before the talks got under way.

The conditions include Moscow's agreement to reduce troops, tanks and other conventional forces and the actual start of such cuts. The United States also insists that short-range nuclear forces (SNF) talks not lead to the elimination of nuclear arms in Europe.

"U.S. and British officials insist these weapons are needed to offset a vast Soviet advantage in conventional arms."

West Germany, which is where most of the NATO's battlefield nuclear missiles are based, has been pressing for immediate SNF talks on grounds that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reform policies have reduced the threat of war in Europe.

Baker said Bonn had given Washington its response to the U.S. proposal to settle the dispute Monday night and "there's still a gap."

NATO chief favours limited talks, page 8

British Ladies of Amman

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Iran-based Afghan rebels reject invitation to Moscow

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Leaders of the Afghan rebel factions based in Iran said Tuesday that they had rejected an invitation to visit Moscow, Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

The offer extended by Yuli Vorontsov, first deputy foreign minister of the Soviet Union, "was refused immediately," said Ali Jan Zahedi, spokesman for the eight-party coalition of the Mujahedeen based in Iran.

Zahedi did tell a news conference that the Soviet delegation was "more flexible during these talks and they did not insist much on the permanence of the Kabul regime and the need for its participation in Afghanistan's future government."

Zahedi ruled out any negotiations with the Kabul government, noting fighting continued around most major Afghan cities, said IRNA.

He did not present a specific

plan, but his view was understood to be that the regime step down and the remainders of the regime form a coalition government with militant forces of Afghanistan.

Reuters quoted Zahedi as saying by telephone from Tehran.

Iran's state-run radio also reported progress in the talks on Afghanistan during Vorontsov's four-day visit to Tehran.

"It seems the question of transfer of power (in Afghanistan) is not very far-fetched," Tehran Radio said Monday.

Vorontsov was appointed

ambassador to Kabul before the Soviet Union ended nearly 10 years of military intervention and withdrew its last soldiers from Afghanistan in February.

The Afghan army has held its own, repelling attacks by Mujahedeen backed by the West, Pakistan and Iran — including a two-month siege of the city of Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan.

Zahedi said Vorontsov's proposals, which he understood to include the removal of at least the ministers of the Afghan government, still failed to meet Mujahedeen demands.

"We reject power-sharing with the remainders of the Afghan regime," he said. "We accept as a replacement only a government embracing all militant and revolutionary Afghan forces which have fought for freedom of Afghanistan in the past 10 years."

Tehran Radio Sunday quoted Vorontsov as saying that the guerrillas in Iran were against foreign intervention in Afghanistan and wanted a broad-based government.

"Our stance conforms completely with this view, and I have asked the leaders of the alliance to visit Moscow, and they have said they will think about the timing of such a trip," he said.

The Afghan guerrillas are split into two alliances, the larger Pakistan-based Sunni Muslim coalition and the minority Shi'ite Muslim alliance based in Iran.

Both groups engaged Soviet soldiers in heavy fighting after they intervened in 1979 to support a communist-led government. But they have been at odds since the Soviet withdrawal earlier this year and the formation of an interim Afghan government that does not include representatives of the Shi'ite alliance.

Zahedi said that a four-man delegation representing the eight-party coalition in Iran was in Pakistan for talks with the larger group.

"It is too soon to talk about results of the visit," he said.

Najibullah: Rebels' mistake

President Najibullah meanwhile accused rebel leaders of making a major mistake in rejecting his peace proposals and said Pakistan was fanning the flames of war in Afghanistan.

"It's another of (the rebel leaders') historic and national mistakes... we hope they will reconsider," Najibullah said.

The only way to get peace in Afghanistan is to lay down our weapons. Most commanders have already realised that after the Soviet withdrawal using these weapons against fellow Afghans is inhumane and unethical," the

president declared. "But Pakistan is urging a continuation of the war..."

On Sunday Pakistan denounced a threat by Najibullah to rocket Afghan rebels on its territory and said it would react strongly if attacked. Pakistan denies repeated Afghan charges that it has fought for the rebel side.

Addressing the closing session of the combined Afghan senate and house of representatives Tuesday, Najibullah repeated proposals for a general ceasefire, an international conference to secure the demilitarisation and neutrality of Afghanistan, the creation of a broad-based interim government followed by national elections and the drawing up of a new constitution.

Two days earlier Najibullah, a former head of the Afghan secret police, offered Mujahedeen commanders local autonomy, the right to keep their weapons, and help with food and transport if they would end the war.

The offer was rejected several Mujahedeen leaders both within and outside Afghanistan. They held Najibullah's ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) largely responsible for the deaths of a million people in the past decade of bloodshed in Afghanistan.

Najibullah, who became president in September 1987, urged assembly members to fan out across the country and urge local rebel commanders to back peace, saying they had borne the brunt of the fighting.

He said Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, president of the rival Mujahedeen interim government based in Pakistan, was too hasty in rejecting his proposals and should reconsider.

The president dismissed suggestions by Mojaddidi that autonomy for rebel commanders would fragment the country.

"We think the concessions will unite the people," he declared. "I will do everything in my power to bring peace to the country."

He said Mujahedeen commanders in several parts of Afghanistan had already in practice accepted a ceasefire but said Pakistan was intervening to prolong the war.

Government forces have successfully held off attacks by Mujahedeen on the eastern cities of Jalalabad and Khost following the Soviet troop withdrawal in February.

Najibullah has said this shows the rebels cannot win militarily.



Israeli soldiers check identity cards of Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip

American objections block U.N. criticism of Israel

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Because of U.S. objections, the Security Council abandoned an effort Monday to issue a statement criticising Israeli actions in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and will now consider what alternative action to take.

The presidency has made very substantial efforts to marry texts together... but today we have had to admit failure," council President Crispin Tickell of Britain told reporters after closed-door consultations among the 15 members.

"The reason for the failure... is that the United States was not able to accept the text as we had, although I think most other members of the council would have

been able to do so," he added.

The council has spent more than two weeks trying to draft a text critical of Israeli policies and actions in dealing with the 18-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories in which nearly 500 Palestinians have been killed.

Tickell said the next step could include an open council debate, or possibly even a closed debate, but that council members would first wish to consult their governments.

Council sources said no decision on what to do next was likely until after the two-day Arab summit meeting opening in Casablanca Tuesday.

Without going into details,

Tickell said: "The representative of the United States made it clear that, for reasons which he thought good, the current text did not contain things which he thought it should contain and did contain things which he could not accept."

A proposed draft circulated last week by the United States would have included an expression of concern about violations of human rights "from any quarter" and an appeal for an "atmosphere of restraint and mutual respect." It would have omitted any reference to a proposed Middle East peace conference under U.N. auspices favoured by other council members.

Relief chief robbed in Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — Gunmen have held up a train carrying emergency food supplies to southern Sudan and robbed the head of the U.N. famine relief.

Canadian Bryan Wannop, Sudan representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and two French U.N. workers were among those whose personal belongings were taken, the official news agency SUNA reported Tuesday.

The unidentified raiders, numbering about 100, held the U.N. officials briefly captive Sunday but then let them and the train continue, SUNA said. No one was hurt in the robbery.

Wannop is Sudan coordinator of a U.N. relief operation called "Lifeline" which supplies food by land and air to tens of thousands of Sudanese threatened by starvation.

The raid was staged shortly before the train, carrying 1,440 tonnes of supplies, reached government-held Malwal in the southern region of Bahr Al Ghazal. Its 250-kilometre trip south from Al Muglad had been delayed for weeks for fear of such an attack.

The train was due to unload a third of its cargo at Malwal, a third at the rebel-held town of Mahior and the rest at government-held Awail to the south.

Militiamen of the Al Messiria tribe, who oppose the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), urged officials last week not to drop off food at SPLA-held towns.

An estimated 250,000 people died in the south last year of hunger or disease and the U.N. says 100,000 could perish this year unless help reaches them.

The SPLA has been fighting for six years to end what it sees as

domination of the south by the north.

Chad blamed for clashes

In another development, Sudan said Tuesday that 460 people were killed and 127 wounded in clashes between rival tribes this month. It blamed neighbouring Chad for fuelling the unrest.

Scores of villages were burned down as black fur tribesmen fought tribes in the western region of Darfur over water and grazing, a cabinet statement said. Seven policemen were among those killed.

"Chad used the tension to serve its objectives and began to fuel the conflict both morally and physically," the statement said without giving details.

It said Interior Minister Mubarak Al Fadel Al Mahdi, who visited Darfur this week, recommended that rival tribal chiefs hold a peace conference and relief supplies be sent to victims.

Darfur, bordering Chad, Libya, and the Central African Republic, has been in turmoil for years because of tribal clashes and infiltration by armed groups involved in Chad's long-running civil war.

Four Roman Catholic clergymen, including a Frenchman and an Irishman, who were captured by southern Sudan rebels in February, will be freed soon, a rebel spokesman said Tuesday.

"They will be freed in a matter of days, not weeks," said Lam Akol, director of international relations for the SPLA. "They will resume their duties in southern Sudan."

Bishop Paride Taban, a

Sudanese, and priests Father John, also Sudanese, Father Leo, an Irishman, and Father Jean-Marie, a Frenchman, were captured shortly after the garrison town of Torit fell to the rebels Feb. 26.

Taban was bishop of Torit, 1,240 kilometres south of Khartoum and just north of the Sudan-Uganda frontier.

Akol declined to say where the clergymen were being held or to give other names for Leo and John. Various Catholic orders in the Kenya's capital, Nairobi, have repeatedly refused to discuss the detention of the clergymen saying they feared for their safety.

The SPLA said shortly after the fall of Torit the clergymen were in protective custody from some rebels who had objected to the churchmen's alleged previous cooperation with the government.

Akol, the chief SPLA representative in Operation Lifeline Sudan, was interviewed in Nairobi.

In July 1983, 19 people were killed when Sudanese commandos freed two American relief workers and one each from Holland, West Germany and Canada.

Their kidnappers styled themselves the Liberation Front of Southern Sudan but apparently were an offshoot of the SPLA.

Four months later, commandos also freed seven French and two Pakistani workers on a project to dig a canal designed to save millions of cubic metres of Nile River water annually and demanded thousands of dollars ransom. Two British hostages of the U.S. petroleum company, Chevron, were freed in the same raid.



HANDS reach for loaves of Afghan flat bread called nan, at a bakery queue in Kabul.

Down Afghan soldiers get high on hashish

By Nassir Shirkhani

Reuter

KABUL — "When you get high on hashish, you become completely revolutionary and attack the enemy. Fear simply disappears," said Afghan soldier Ahmad Shah, rolling a hashish joint.

"If the commanders refused to come up with hashish, they would face the wrath of armed soldiers," another soldier said. "Hashish is the wine of Afghanistan," bearded Janali said in a broken voice, his left eye twitching.

Soldier Aminullah, his bulging eyes red from the effects of narcotics, took a puff from a joint and said: "I have not seen my family for two years. It is so difficult not being able to see your brothers, sisters and parents. I drown my sorrow with hashish."

They were among a group of soldiers who said the Afghan army provides frontline troops with hashish to boost their courage for the fight against Mujahedeen guerrillas.

The soldiers said in interviews they got hashish as part

of their routine rations.

Soldiers say up to 80 per cent of the men serving in combat units use the drug to ameliorate an often dull and sometimes dangerous life.

Troops say commanders provide quantities of the drug free of charge to barracks, especially if the army is going into battle against the guerrillas.

General Abdul Haq Ulumi, head of the National Defence Council, admits the use of the drug among soldiers but says the number is insignificant.

"It is true that some soldiers smoke hashish, it is a social problem which has spread to the barracks," Ulumi said.

He said the army had set up 200 commissions to crack down on the use of narcotics in the military.

Sense of despair

Ten years of war with no end in sight has led to a sense of hopelessness and split families in the conflict between the government in Kabul and an alliance of Mujahedeen rebels based in Pakistan.

Ahmad Shah said he had been wounded by mortar frag-

ments but was liable to be recalled into action.

He was slumped on a bench at the Teymur Shahi monument in the busy bazaar area of Kabul with a group of serving and demobilised soldier friends, all taking deep puffs from freshly-rolled hashish cigarettes.

"Why waste money on expensive booze, when 100 afghanis (40 U.S. cents) buys enough hashish to make four people stoned," said officer Farid, who serves at the Pagman base north of Kabul.

It was a public holiday and the comrades-in-arms were spending the day in Kabul.

"There are 80 of us in my dormitory and only 20 are not addicted to hashish," Aminullah said, breaking off for a coughing fit as he inhaled smoke.

"It has ruined my chest but keeps by spirits up," said Aminullah, who is based at the Kalakan garrison outside Kabul.

The soldiers say the army provides them with enough hashish for three joints a day, increasing the amount in bar-

sher times.

"The army handout is not enough. I usually get through 20 joints a day," Farid said, producing some hashish from under his shirt.

Despite government discouragement, there is no social stigma attached to the consumption of hashish, which is even grown on small plots of land just outside Kabul.

The street value of top quality hashish is \$80 per kilogram while heroin fetches \$800 for the same amount in Kabul.

The Afghan Interior Ministry says poppy seeds have been sown in Mujahedeen-held regions, threatening a massive flow of narcotics to the West.

According to a United Nations study Afghanistan was one of the world's major sources of illegal drugs before the war, producing up to 400 tonnes of opium and 500 tonnes of cannabis annually.

Afghan officials say areas under poppy cultivation have increased at least 10-fold since the war broke out in 1979, taking Afghanistan the biggest producer of drugs in the world.

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15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programmes
17:25 Programme on arts
17:50 Programme on world news
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Cairo News Message
18:45 Local programme
19:20 Common mistakes
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Wrestling
22:30 Varieties programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Les Piques Asiettes
18:20 Des Cailles Et de Lettres
19:40 News in French
19:15 'Atjoud' hit in Jordan
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Life with Lucy
21:10 Documentary
22:00 News in English
22:30 Poor Little Rich Girl

PRAYER TIMES

43-58 Fair
05-29 (Source) Duh
12-32 Duh
16-13 'Asr

19:36 Maghreb
21:07 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661257
Terassanta Church Tel. 623366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assam International Church Tel. 685336
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822405
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Another drop in temperatures will occur and some clouds will appear at

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

low altitudes. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman 16 / 26
Aqaba 21 / 35
Deserts 18 / 30
Jordan Valley 19 / 33

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings: Amman 44 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Adnan Al Dibi 826660
Dr. Jamil Maraqeh 770466
Dr. Yousef Sammour 615648
Dr. Mohammad Abu Mahfouz 793444
Firas pharmacy 661912
Fendous pharmacy 785326
Al Asra pharmacy 637055
Nairokh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 626730
Yaouub pharmacy 644945
Steineland pharmacy 657660

IRBID:
Dr. Amjad 'Obaidar (—)

Al Sharra' pharmacy (983338)

ZARQA:
Dr. Miss 'Odeh (—)
Khaleel pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Civil Defence Emergency 624412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 672279
Al-Musader Hospital 66612737
The Islamic, Abdali 6641646
Al-Ahli, Abdali 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich 7511126
Army, Marfa 8161175
Queen Alia Hospital 6024050
Amal Hospital 674155
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
On Sana Hospital (09)986732
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)755555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)727275

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53300
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53300

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 81381332
Khaleel Maternity, J. Amn 642416
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 672279
Al-Musader Hospital 66612737
The Islamic, Abdali 6641646
Al-Ahli, Abdali 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich 7511126
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Queen Alia Hospital 6024050
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Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
On Sana Hospital (09)986732
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)755555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)727275

Im Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53300-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

10:10 Damascus (RJ)
10:10 Aqaba (RJ)
10:30 Riyadh (RJ)
10:30 Tunis, Camblanca (RJ)
10:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
10:45 Geneva, London (RJ)
10:45 Calcutta (RJ)
10:45 Kuwait (RJ)
10:45 Jeddah (RJ)
10:45 Cairo (RJ)
10:45 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
10:45 Laraca (RJ)
10:45 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
10:45 Riyadh (RJ)
10:45 Paris (RJ)
10:45 New York, Vienna (RJ)
10:45 London, Geneva (RJ)

18:55 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
19:30 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
19:30 Belgrade, Bucharest (RJ)
01:20 Baghdad (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:25 Cairo (MS)
11:45 Rome (AZ)
12:30 Benghazi (LN)
12:30 Baghdad (IA)
12:30 Jeddah, Sana (OY)
12:30 Medina, Jeddah (SV)
12:30 Sana (LE)
12:30 Karachi (PK)
12:30 Dubai (TK)
07:55 Aqaba (RJ)
11:45 Belgrade, Bucharest (RJ)
12:30 Riyadh (RJ)
12:30 Tunis, Camblanca (RJ)
12:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:30 Geneva, London (RJ)
12:30 Calcutta (RJ)
12:30 Kuwait (RJ)
12:30 Jeddah (RJ)
12:30 Cairo (RJ)
12:30 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
12:30 Laraca (RJ)
12:30 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
12:30 Riyadh (RJ)
12:30 Paris (RJ)
12:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)
12:30 London, Geneva (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:55 Aqaba (RJ)
11:45 Belgrade, Bucharest (RJ)
12:30 Riyadh (RJ)
12:30 Tunis, Camblanca (RJ)
12:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:30 Geneva, London (RJ)
12:30 Calcutta (RJ)
12:30 Kuwait (RJ)
12:30 Jeddah (RJ)
12:30 Cairo (RJ)
12:30 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
12:30 Laraca (RJ)
12:30 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
12:30 Riyadh (RJ)
12:30 Paris (RJ)
12:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)
12:30 London, Geneva (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:25 Cairo, London (BA)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Synod elects new Chaldean patriarch

BAGHDAD (AP) — A synod of 16 bishops representing Chaldean Catholic churches around the world Monday elected Bishop Rafael Bidaweed of Lebanon their new patriarch. He will be formally enthroned in a ceremony in Baghdad Friday, an official church announcement said. Following his enthronement, Bidaweed, 67, will be known as Rafael the First, Bidaweed, Patriarch of the Chaldean Church of Babylon and the East. He succeeds Patriarch Mar Paul II Cheikho who died April 13 aged 83.

Envoy pleads for release of Briton

BEIRUT (AP) — British Ambassador Allan Ramsay made a televised appeal Monday for the release of 75-year-old Briton Jack Mann, a World War II pilot believed kidnapped in west Beirut 10 days ago. "My government does not make deals with hostage-holders," Ramsay said, speaking in classical Arabic over the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation network. Mann disappeared May 13 and a group calling itself the Cells of Armed Struggle later claimed it had kidnapped an unidentified Briton.

Princess Basma opens 3 Madaba schools

MADABA (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday opened three new schools and an education department in Madaba district in the course of the Kingdom's celebrations of Independence Day.

The educational department director made a speech at the opening ceremony outlining the Ministry of Education's projects in Madaba district over the past two years which, he said, cost JD 6 million and included facilities for the rehabilitation of handicapped children.

Later the Princess laid the foundation stone for a compulsory school which will cost JD 480,000 and opened a secondary school for girls in Ma'in south

west of Madaba. Princess Basma also visited an exhibition that displayed traditional crafts, and met with representatives of the local village councils and men and women teachers.

Princess Basma attended a sports festival at Madaba girls school and opened three exhibitions at local schools displaying documents and photographs about Jordan's development under His Majesty King Hussein. She received token gifts from the teachers of the Madaba girls school.

Minister of Education Abdullah Nsour and other officials accompanied Princess Basma on the tour.

Tunis meeting addresses Palestinian education in occupied territories

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is taking part in the 21st meeting of the Palestinian Educational Affairs Council which opened in Tunis Tuesday along side delegates from Palestine, the Arab League's Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ALESCO) and the Arab League.

The three-day meeting is attended by Mr. Ahmad Mubayadin, the first secretary at the Jordanian embassy in Tunis who said that the agenda includes issues pertaining to the educational process in the occupied territories including schools operated by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). The three-day meeting, he said, will review memoranda submitted by Jordan on Israel's continued disruption of the educational process in the occupied Arab lands during the on-going intifada and the education situation at UNRWA schools in Jordan.

Jordan is taking part in another meeting in Tunis discussing Arab women's affairs.

The meeting, sponsored by the Arab League, is attended by delegations representing social affairs ministries and women federations in all Arab countries.

The four-day meeting will discuss, among other topics, a pan-Arab strategy on women from now until the year 2000 as prepared by the Arab League, and a memorandum submitted by Palestine on the role of Palestinian women in the intifada. An Iraqi memorandum on the role of women in Iraq, the effects of the Gulf war on families, and the role of women in the battle for peace will also be discussed by the delegations.

Also on the agenda is a set of issues pertaining to the world economic crisis and its adverse effects on Arab women, as well as women's role to nationalise consumption and contribute to the Arab World's socio-economic development.

Jordanians contribute JD 1.8m

Donations to intifadah tax-free

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Ministers has decided to exempt donations made in support of the Palestinian intifada from income tax, according to Dr. Mamdouh Abbadi, president of the Jordanian Medical Association and member of a national committee charged with raising funds for the Palestinian uprising.

Abbadi was quoted by Al-Dustour daily as saying that the committee has so far collected JD 1,778,221 in donations from various organisations, citizens and companies in Jordan and that it had spent JD 1,373,028 on families affected by Israeli atrocities in the occupied territories.

A total of JD 1,000 is paid to each family that loses a martyr in the course of the intifada, and JD 200 to the family of each injured person, Abbadi said.

He said, the committee has paid JD 126,000 to support



Dr. Mamdouh Al Abbadi

Palestinian hospitals, JD 34,000 to voluntary societies and other sums for the purchase of medicine and medical equipment.

The government's decision to exempt these donations from income tax is bound to encourage various organisations and citizens

to make more contributions to their brothers under occupation who are struggling for freedom, Abbadi stressed.

The government's decision, he added will no doubt encourage the committee to double its efforts to raise more contributions.

Donating to the Palestinian uprising and to bolster the steadfastness of the Palestinian people under Israeli rule is a national duty, and it is hoped that all citizens and various organisations will increase their donations, Abbadi said.

The committee which is chaired by Mr. Abdul Majid Shoman was established in February 1988 to raise funds for the Palestinian cause.

Its 12 members represent various economic and social organisations and professional and trade unions in Jordan.

Expert warns against import of contaminated food

CAIRO (Petra) — The Arab World annually imports \$30 billion worth foodstuffs and therefore it is to a large extent exposed to handling large amounts of food that could be contaminated with radiation, a Jordanian expert told a regional meeting here Tuesday.

Ibrahim Badran, who is also Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources' secretary general said that the Chernobyl nuclear incident and other radiation leaks had proved that foodstuffs of all kind and water can be contaminated and dangerously affected by nuclear radiation.

Such food stuffs could find its way to the Arab World through illegitimate methods or when they are supported by false documents testifying to their fitness for human consumption, Badran warned in his address to the

seminar called to discuss environmental and food contamination by nuclear radiation.

Badran said that Arab countries taking part in the seminar have submitted working papers dealing with national experiences in handling contaminated foodstuffs and dealing with contamination problems.

The Arab World, he pointed out, has a 60 per cent deficit of food supplies, forcing it to import large quantities of food from around the world, thus exposing the Arab people to eating all sorts of foodstuffs some of which could be contaminated by radiation, Badran added.

He said that the seminar aims to encourage Arab states to unify specifications employed in measuring the amount of radiation and ways to monitor radiation

in the atmosphere.

He urged Arab states to take proper measures to fend off the danger of radiation and protect water and food sources.

Summer courses

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan Tuesday began registering students for summer courses. Registration also covers students who study at other universities but wish to take additional courses here, according to the dean of the students department.

He said that the registration process will end by June 24 and that parents can do the registration process for their children.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday talks to Sama Sirhan children during the Queen's visit to the town (Photo by George).

Queen Noor visits Sama Sirhan

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday distributed certificates to women graduates of sewing, weaving and typing courses from the local community development centre in Sama Sirhan, and the Arab Woman Society, during the Queen's visit to the area.

The director of social development in Mafrag Governorate, the director of the centre and one graduate reviewed in separate speeches the projects carried out in the governorate and the role of

the centre in serving the local community. The celebration was attended by Minister of Health Subair Mallas, the ministry's under secretary, the Mafrag governor and the director of the governorate's social development.

Queen Noor opened an exhibition of national heritage and handicrafts held by the centre. The exhibition includes the works of the 110 graduates. Later, the Queen visited the town's health centre and the mother and child care centre.

ACC industry chiefs approve joint chamber, data bank

AMMAN (Agencies) — Industrialists from Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) members said Tuesday they hoped that, unlike past unions, the new grouping of Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen would achieve real economic integration.

"We have already had such proposals in the past, but there were too many decisions, too much paper," said Dr. Abdul Karim Amir, economic counsel-

lor to the Yemeni chamber of industry, Reuters reported.

He was speaking after a two-day conference at which business leaders from the four states agreed to set up a joint chamber of commerce and a data bank to encourage industrial integration.

The bloc, formed in February, groups 80 million people with a gross national product of \$100 billion, exports of about \$15 billion a year and imports of about \$30 billion, Jordanian officials say. It aims to achieve economic integration and eventually form a common market.

"In the Middle East economics used to be subservient to politics — now it's the other way round," Egyptian chamber of industry chief Dr. Adil Jizarin told Reuters.

The two-day meeting by chambers of industry in the four member ACC countries ended here Monday evening with a set of recommendations urging governments to open the way for measures deemed necessary for achieving economic and industrial integration.

A statement issued at the end of the meeting called for an exchange of expertise among industrial organisations in the four countries, coordination among chambers of industry at various

regional and international conferences, joint industrial exhibitions and joint research projects in industry.

The delegates recommended the establishment of investment companies to finance joint industrial projects in the Arab World and abroad.

They recommended the creation of a higher council for ACC chambers of industry which will be entrusted with industrial policies.

They pledged ACC's cooperation with other Arab and international organisations and urged Arab states to help facilitate the flow of industrial products produced in Arab countries and the transfer of capital to finance industrial investments.

The participants also called for unifying and modernising specifications and measurements in the ACC countries.

The delegations which took part in the meetings left for home Tuesday and in statements by their leaders before departure they voiced appreciation to Jordan for its efforts to promote cooperation within the ACC countries. They also expressed appreciation to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent's efforts in this regard.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BILATERAL COOPERATION: Transport and Telecommunications Minister Hikmat Khammash Tuesday met with the ambassadors of Spain, Switzerland and Austria to discuss scopes of cooperation between Jordan and their respective countries. In four separate meetings, the minister also discussed means of developing and enhancing bilateral cooperation. (Petra).

CAPITALS' COOPERATION: Baghdad Mayor Khalid Abdul Mun'im Rashid Tuesday arrived in Amman on a three-day visit to Jordan for talks with Greater Amman Municipality Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh and senior municipality officials on means of enhancing cooperation between the Jordanian and Iraqi capitals. Rashid will also attend the inauguration of Al Qadiseh garden in Amman and will take part in planting of palm saplings donated by Baghdad municipality as contribution to Amman municipality's efforts to beautify the Amman city. (Petra).

INDEPENDENCE DAY: As part of the University of Jordan's celebrations of Independence Day Thursday, the university Wednesday organises a symposium on the concept of independence and its meaning in addition to performing a play entitled "Slavery" and a number of sports activities. (Petra).

SOVIET FRIENDS: A Soviet friendship delegation headed by Nicolai Tsacha, Soviet minister of navigation and deputy chairman of the Soviet-Jordanian Friendship Society arrived in Amman Tuesday on a several-day visit to Jordan for talks with senior officials on bilateral cooperation between the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society and the Federation of Soviet Friendship Societies. During its stay in Jordan the delegation is expected to sign a protocol of cooperation and visit the archaeological and cultural sites in Jordan. (Petra).

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ The May art exhibition at Al Wasiti Art Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- ★ An art exhibition by Azz Ammoura at the Gallery Hall, Jabal Lwweideh.
- ★ A photography exhibition by British photographer and writer Jane Taylor in which 41 aerial photographs of various places in Jordan are on display at Alia Gallery.
- ★ A photography exhibition by Adib Atwan at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by Diana Shamounki at the Petra Bank Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Spotlight Germany" displaying works by eleven German photographers at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ An archaeological exhibition entitled "The Treasures of Hasma Desert" at the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by three North African artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- ★ The annual exhibition of the Nazareth School students at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by Ahmad Abu Othman at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings, educational facilities, computers, scientific laboratories and handicrafts at the Yarmouk University Model School.
- ★ A photography exhibition entitled "Amman Under King Hussein's Reign" at the North Roman Catholic School, Zarqa.
- ★ A Chinese art exhibition displaying paintings of natural scenes, straw and cotton plates, ceramics and brass work at the Royal Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture entitled "Development and Thirst for Culture" by Dr. Shaker Mustafa at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 6:30 p.m.

FILMS

- ★ A Charlie Chaplin film week at Haya Cultural Centre (for more information call the centre or the British Council).
- ★ A selection of films depicting various places and aspects of life in the Federal Republic of Germany and Europe at the Goethe Institute.



A jazzy choir — Swedish style

By Mariam M. Shahin
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In an effort to strengthen cultural relations between Sweden and Jordan, the Swedish-Jordanian Friendship Society, based in Stockholm, has sponsored Sweden's participation in this year's Jerash festival. The Linkoping University male voice choir, Likhoren, is the youngest male voice choir in Sweden and inaugurates Scandinavian participation at the annual Jerash festival.

During an informal meeting with the press Tuesday, Sweden's Ambassador to Jordan Lars Lonnback spoke of Sweden's tradition in choir music.

The Scandinavian male voice music tradition is an essential part of the musical activities not only in Likhoren but in all of Sweden, Scandinavia and Northern Europe.

"It is basically a northern phenomenon. Approximately one out of eight Swedes are members of a choir. It is almost like a national hobby. It is a popular pastime that takes you through the long dark winters," he said at

an informal gathering with reporters.

"When the spring and summer begin, their arrival is often greeted by concerts and other musical performances where choirs actively participate," he added.

The performances by Likhoren have an important role in the traditional festivities at the university where the group was founded in 1972. Initially, the chorists were mainly recruited from students and teachers at Linkoping University's Institute of Technology. At present, the choir includes approximately 70 chorists representing all the university faculties.

The choir, as a musical "movement," began during the earlier part of the 19th century among students in all Nordic countries. The typical lyrical and Romantic music that resulted is still the base for most academic choirs in Sweden.

Lonnback points out that non of the 65-member choir are professional "chorists," but that despite their amateur label they are very qualified.

"Nobody is a professional.

Nevertheless, they (the chorists) act as if they are professional. They practice and travel abroad as if it were their duty, when really it is not. They are not paid anything. This is their hobby and they work hard to give the best performance they can. They are very dedicated," he said.

The Likhoren group has performed in North America and most of Northern Europe. Lonnback believes that Likhoren's performance at Jerash may be "the first of its kind in the Arab World."

The Likhoren performance will include a wide variety of musical styles. Part of their performance will deal with traditional male voice music from all Nordic coun-

tries. The choir's musical director Hans Lundgren, has introduced considerable musical development and experimentation which has made the choirs performance much livelier than the more conventional choir music many music fans are accustomed to.

He has introduced pieces by several Swedish, European and American composers including Schubert, Grieg, Kjerulf, Gershwin and Paul Simon.

This cultural exchange comes a few months before a state visit by Sweden's king and queen scheduled for September.

"(It) is a very nice introduction of Swedish culture to the Jordanian people. I hope the audience will enjoy their performance," the ambassador said.

ROMERO

The Italian Restaurant

Regrets for not being able to receive its clients on Wednesday evening because the restaurant is reserved for a private party.



JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES CO. LTD. INVITATION TO TENDER NO. 21F/89

JPMC announces the invitation to tender No. 21F/89 for the supply of (chemicals, glassware and lab. equipments).

The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman supply department until 2.00 p.m. local time Saturday 17.6.1989, application for documents should be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee of JD. (5) for each set of tender documents. The closing date for submission tender is 12.00 hours local time Saturday 24.6.1989.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1974

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Historic challenge

AN UNDEFINABLE euphoria spreads all over the Arab skies every time the Arab heads of state gather for a summit, extraordinary or otherwise. There is no difference today. The Arab masses at large are looking expectantly to Casablanca with high hopes that the gathering there will come up with practical moves towards addressing some of the crucial issues that face the Arabs. It is indeed a hope against hope that one summit of Arab leaders, with different viewpoints and positions on various issues, would be able to come up with solutions to problems that have plagued the Arab World and summits for decades; but the marked differences this time are very clear and simple and make the gathering a make-it-or-break-it affair so vital to the future of the Arabs.

If the summit fails to move towards realising the mechanism in the horizon to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict — that is, a two-state solution of the Palestinian problem — and continues bickering over accepting realities, then doomed indeed is the prospect of restoring just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, simply because such failure will only strengthen Israel's hands. This will in turn further complicate and undo whatever has been achieved with the switch to moderation by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and deliver a new weapon to hardliners in the Arab World.

If the summit fails to draw from past experiences in Lebanon and opts for peripheral remedies and not a permanent cure to the country's civil strife through fundamental reforms and through eliminating all foreign military presence without undermining Arab interests there, gone are all hopes to put an end to the 15-year-old bloodbath among Arab brothers. Granted that the hostility and animosity built over the years could not be rooted out overnight, there is no mistaking the silent appeal of Lebanese leaders, whether from the right or left, for a formula that will save all faces and ease into place a system devoid of injustice and political domination.

If the summit fails to be guided by the fundamental principle that the Arab League was established for the purpose of bringing together all Arab states and unifying Arab positions on external challenges and not for isolating one or more, then there is very little sense in the very concept behind the existence of the league itself.

If the summit repeats past mistakes and allows inter-Arab differences to assume the centre-stage and throw a spanner in the works, the question that looms is: Why the shared common Arab identity of the 22 member states of the Arab League if such identity only helps to exacerbate crises and undermine prospects for a better future for the Arab people at large?

If the summit fails to rise above the individual interests of Arab states and to serve the higher interests of the Arabs as a community in the international scene it will serve to consolidate the off-beat argument that the Arabs "can never get their act together" and thus help advance the divide-and-rule strategy of foreign powers with vested interests.

Above all, if the summit fails to pave the foundations for concrete action towards implementing its (hopefully) creative resolutions, then it should be warned that avenues are open for individual Arab states to pursue their own interests and adopt action accordingly.

In short, if the Arab leaders fail in Casablanca to grasp the opportunity for a historic turn in collective Arab action, they will only be failing their own people and their hopes for a better life in security and stability.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Tuesday discussed the Casablanca summit in its editorial noting that the Arab leaders are concentrating their attention on two important issues: Lebanon and the situation in the occupied Arab territories. The paper said that Jordan which hosted a summit that ended with total consensus and agreement among Arab leaders is bound to play a leading role in further consolidating Arab ranks at the Casablanca meeting and help consensus on these two important questions. Lebanon and Palestine are two pressing issues which must be dealt with seriously and with great urgency, and the Arabs are more liable to take unified action now having restored Egypt's membership to the Arab summit and grouped themselves into economic groupings designed to attain Arab unity, the paper noted. The Arab leaders meeting in Morocco now, the paper said, should realise the importance of the time element with regard to the two issues and exploit every minute to help bring an end to the ordeal of the Lebanese and Palestinian people.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily supports the grievances of some 10,000 people living in four villages near Wadi Seer west of Amman. Salah Abdul Samad says that the villages of Bassa, Iraq Al Amir, Almani and Deir have no telephone services at all and they are dreaming of the day when the Telecommunications Corporation will turn its attention to them. The writer reports the residents as saying they were promised a telephone exchange for the four villages by 1992 and asks about the reason for the delay. Do all these people have to wait three more years in order to be able to make a telephone call from their place of living? the writer asks. He says that telephones are part of the country's infrastructure and form an essential service to the public and wonders what made the Telecommunications Corporation wait all these years to give the promise specially since Iraq Al Amir hosts one of the archaeological treasures in the Amman region. Abdul Samad calls on the corporation to take speedy action to provide this essential service to the four villages in the Amman area.

Al Dustour daily dwelt on the Casablanca summit meeting opening Tuesday and said that it is being held with the same spirit that had marked the 1987 Amman extraordinary summit that ended with agreement and consensus among Arabs. The paper said the summit will no doubt boost inter-Arab cooperation and give further momentum to joint action and give the Arab Nation more credibility in the eyes of the world. Therefore, the paper says, the Arab masses are hopeful that this summit will come up with a new formula for collective action vis-a-vis Lebanon and Palestine. The Arab leaders, regardless of their peripheral differences ought to reach a common denominator and forge ahead with practical steps to bring about a settlement in Lebanon and end the ordeal of the Palestinian people, the paper said. Any positive agreement at the summit, the paper said, will contribute favourably towards the strengthening of the Arab Nation.

Uprising pushes China to historic turning point

By Steve Holland
Reuters

WASHINGTON — China's massive popular uprising has pushed the 40-year-old Communist government to an historic turning point and will ultimately force political reform, U.S. analysts have said.

"What is clear already is we are witnessing one of the most important historical events since World War II, that China will never be the same," said Winston Lord, who was U.S. ambassador to China from 1985 until last month.

Students and workers pouring into Beijing's Tiananmen Square were reacting to decades of repression by the Communist Party as well as new complaints over inflation, corruption, nepotism and a bloated bureaucracy, China expert Orville Schell wrote in an article for the Washington Post.

He said in a subsequent television interview the fact that other sectors of society had joined the students in the demonstrations "makes it a kind of tidal wave of protest which simply can't be denied and ultimately will plough right through this government."

President George Bush, in his first remarks on the matter, told a Boston news conference Sunday that Chinese authorities should use restraint in dealing with the crisis and should use the opportunity to institute democratic reforms.

Bush, apparently trying to avoid angering the Chinese government, avoided praising the movement and would not suggest a course of action for the students except to say they should remain peaceful and "stand up for what you believe in."

China experts in the United States watched the events unfolding in Beijing with something close to shock. Newspaper headlines blared the latest developments and analysts debated China's future on television and radio.

Some analysts said it seemed inevitable that Prime Minister Li Peng would lose power and that paramount leader Deng Xiaoping might eventually be forced to go as well, even if they ordered the army to use violence to break up the protests.

"I think in the longer run their political careers do not look bright," said Kenneth Lieberthal of the University of Michigan.

The experts said Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang, who has taken a moderate stance towards the demonstrators and is reported to have been stripped of his power, appeared to be waiting in the

wings and was likely to make a political comeback.

Lord said that to defuse the situation the Chinese leadership should agree to a "meaningful dialogue" with elected student representatives and allow the students to form independent associations in which they could express dissent.

"I think the Chinese people are coming together. I think the future is set in terms of a more open society. It will take time and there may be some tragic moments from here to there," he said in a television interview.

Two Democratic members of Congress criticised the Bush administration for not giving clear expressions of support to the student movement regardless of the effect such a statement might have on Sino-American relations.

Christopher Dodd of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said the U.S. leadership should make clear to the protesters that "we really care about democracy, that we believe in it and that what you are doing is something we profoundly agree with."

Stephen Solarz, chairman of a House of Representatives subcommittee on Asian affairs, said Bush should have a high-profile meeting with representatives among Chinese students studying in the United States.

"We have to recognise that what is now going on in China may well be the most moving and significant demonstrations for democracy in the history of our times," he said.

Secretary of State James Baker said on Saturday the United States supported freedom of speech and assembly but officials did not want to be seen as inciting the students to riot.

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, former Assistant Secretary of State Gaston Sigur and China expert A. Doak Barnett of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, said they concurred with this approach.

A State Department official quoted by the New York Times described the protest as the most serious for the Chinese government since its inception in 1949, and was the result of "a mass demand not for revolutionary changes, but for a more responsive government."

Kissinger said on television it was ironic that Deng, once put into solitary confinement as a reformer, was being condemned as an obstacle to reform.

Support from Hong Kong

By Chris Peterson
Reuters

HONG KONG — It took a million demonstrators to lay to rest the myth that most of Hong Kong's Chinese people are apolitical.

Sunday's massive outpouring of support for Peking's students protester was caused as much by a sense of pride in being Chinese as by a desire to support democracy, analysts said Monday.

One million people jammed the streets along Hong Kong's eastern harbour waterfront in an unprecedented display. Legislator Martin Lee, one of the organisers, said Monday: "I am thrilled. People say democracy is not suitable for the Chinese, either in Hong Kong or China. I hope this myth has been exploded forever."

Hong Kong is due to revert to Chinese sovereignty in 1997, when it becomes a special administrative region of China under the "one country, two systems" principle hammered out in a 1984 agreement between Peking and London.

But analyst Bob Broadfoot of the Political and Economic Risk Consultancy told Reuters: "Nineteen ninety seven is finished for all practical purposes. The people of Hong Kong have demonstrated that they are behind the students, that they want to be part of the events of China."

"I don't think it's a question of politics, it's a question of identifying with China. It hit at the Hong Kong person's heartstrings there are Chinese kids starving for democracy in China."

Said political analyst Harvey Stockwin: "They were primarily marching for China. It is Chinese nationalism with a small 'N' that is the emotion urging them to march."

Commentators agreed that it was the biggest public demonstration that Hong Kong had seen in its 148 years as a British colony.

Hong Kong's governor, Sir David Wilson, made no comment after Sunday's events or on the unrest in China. Government officials said Hong Kong viewed events in Peking as an internal China affair.

Broadfoot said the demonstration was a dramatic public manifestation of a deep change that

had come over the British colony in the years since London and Peking laid down the blueprint for Hong Kong's future in the 1984 joint declaration.

"The British administration here is no longer part of the equation. If there was ever an example of a lame duck, this is it," he added.

The Hong Kong government, which rules under what has been described as a benign dictatorship because of the lack of directly elected legislators and the sweeping powers of the governor, operates a policy of what officials call "positive non-intervention."

Hong Kong film director and veteran political activist John Shum Kin-Fan told Sunday's rally:



West Germany approaches NATO summit feeling misunderstood

By Tom Heneghan
Reuters

BONN — West Germany, whose newly-assertive foreign policy has opened a serious rift within NATO, approaches the alliance's 40th anniversary summit next weekend feeling deeply misunderstood.

As NATO's front-line state and the divided loser of the World War II, West Germany has always staunchly supported the alliance's strategy for defence against the Soviet bloc.

But a large majority of West Germans no longer believe in a Soviet threat, opinion surveys show.

They see the cold war ending and want dialogue and disarmament to help break down the iron curtain separating them from fellow Germans and former neighbours in Eastern Europe.

For the past few weeks, though, Bonn's centre-right coalition has seen its persistent call for East-West talks on reducing short-range nuclear forces (SNF) repeatedly slammed by the United States and Britain as a grave mistake.

The proposal, which most West Germans see as a reasonable response to Moscow's latest peace offers, ran into foreign criticism which many here thought was exaggerated and unrealistic.

The differences emerging in the debate were so strong that even a last-minute compromise before the May 29-30 NATO summit might not fully close the rift, Western diplomats say.

Perhaps the most difficult thing for Bonn to accept was that Washington and London wanted NATO first to install a new generation of SNF weapons in West Germany in the 1990s.

The macabre slogan "the shorter the range, the deadlier the Germans" echoed in discussions here as attention focussed on the weapons that would destroy East and West Germany if fired.

Bonn's unusual determination to fight for its plan triggered off a wave of commentaries abroad that conjured up a reunited Ger-

many that few here think is possible.

These warnings, mostly in the U.S. and British press, portrayed the country as a starry-eyed victim of "gorbomania," ready to break out of NATO for a neutral and reunited Germany it might win from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Struggling against these suspicions, Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher have been swearing their allegiance to NATO almost daily.

According to a defence ministry survey, three-quarters of those polled agreed that "the Communist threat is not so great any more" and "the Soviet Union is serious about detente."

The descendants of what was once Europe's most militaristic nation are also strong believers in preserving the continent's post-war peace, the survey made last year showed.

Only 15 per cent of those surveyed would actively resist a foreign invasion, while about one third would only put up a weak defence and almost half would not fight back at all.

At the same time, the defence ministry survey says, 85 per cent of those polled wanted West Germany to stay in NATO, 85 per cent believed the West German army helped ensure peace and 75 per cent thought U.S. troops were necessary for peace here.

"There is a discrepancy between the long-lasting and firm commitment of the German public to the fundamental issues of defence and the more recent concerns and hopes of the Germans with regard to changes in East-West relations," said Angelika Volle of the German Society for Foreign Policy.

Commentaries in the West German media took on a more and more exasperated tone as it became clear "The Anglo-Saxons" did not share the far-reaching conclusions Bonn has drawn from the changes Gorbachev has brought about.

Foreign commentaries about reunification of East and West

Germany have also pointed out how differently Germans and outsiders view this nation's future.

While foreigners talk of reunification in terms of a neutral Germany or greater Germany that might menace the rest of Europe, most West Germans consider that unrealistic.

One option Genscher often alludes to in speeches sees West Germany helping East Germans by working to spread "European values" of freedom and human rights across all of Europe.

"When it comes up, the German question will not be one of reunification, but one of self-determination for the people of East Germany."

LETTERS

Missed the point

To the Editor:

I HAVE come across the article of Mr. John West published on May 21, in regards to the Harlem Globetrotters' show on Thursday May 18. To say the least, this article is not only negative but strangely malicious. I would like to remind Mr. West of a few things in this regard.

First, he obviously has missed the point of what the Harlem Globetrotters are all about, and what their visit to Jordan really means. He has willingly gone against the grain of the majority of the people that attended and enjoyed the show. Yes, the little kids that were there, that will grow up hoping to play basketball (or any other sport at that) and do well in it. This show was not for the likes of Hilal Barakat, nor for the sheer enjoyment of Hilal Barakat alone. It was for the little kids that followed the Trotters with their eyes and ears, and ran after them just to shake their hands. Let the children play, someone said. Keep out the John Wests and the Hilal Barakats from spoiling the fun, I say.

I wonder why Mr. West came down so strong on the Trotters' "game" in his coverage. To stand out, and be counted? Denial is cynical, and to some unrecognised journalists that is the only way to be known, to be counted. I wish someone in the fair Jordan Times would translate to Mr. West the commentaries of

the major Arabic dailies that came out on Saturday May 20. Vis-a-vis Mr. West's "dull and boring" conclusion, Al Ra'i commented on the game with an appropriate headline, something like: "The show was so dazzling that one cannot describe it on paper but has to see it to believe it..." Both Al Dustour and Al Shaab captured the fun of the evening in their commentaries as well.

The Globetrotters' game was an example of what the private sector is capable of bringing to Jordan. Aramex took the first step in the direction of entertaining the general public.

As one of the spectators said "This is the best thing that has hit Jordan in the past six months." Wasn't it enough seeing the laughter on the children's faces not to mention all the physically handicapped kids.

Fadi Ghandour
Aramex International Courier

John West replies: While all feedback from readers, positive or negative, is naturally welcome, I do not see the need for unjust and inaccurate personal attacks. I have not, and would not wish to criticise Aramex or Mr. Ghandour personally for sponsoring the Harlem Globetrotters. I would only hope that, while being as rigorous in his criticism of my article as possible, he would afford me the same courtesy.

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Zionism — a policy of exclusion, injustices beyond remedy

Israel: An Apartheid State By Uri Davis

Reviewed By Mustafa Hamarneh

AMMAN — Dr. Uri Davis is a Palestinian Jew who was born in Palestine in 1943. He now holds both Israeli and British citizenship. His early political beliefs were self-described as those of a "moderate" Zionist. In the early 1960s, partly influenced by the American civil rights movement and the writings of Gandhi and Rabbi Elmer Berger among others, his views began to change. His first major political act was to move into the Arab village of Deir al-Asad and help mobilise action against Zionist land confiscations. It was this issue, the confiscation of Arab land, that led to Davis's collision with the Israeli system.

His inquisitive mind, decent human instincts and activism on behalf of the Arabs who remained in their homeland in

1948, enabled Uri Davis to see through Zionist mystification and to finally make the break with his past and become a leading figure and a committed scholar in the struggle against Zionism.

Israel: An Apartheid State is as informative as all of Davis's works and is truly vintage Davis. In this short monograph, Davis recasts the entire Arab/Zionist case and puts it in its proper historic perspective. Instead of the discussion of boundaries, national security considerations and Zionist apologies which we have been subjected to during the last few decades, we now are presented with a penetrating legal and political analysis of the subtle and sophisticated Zionist discriminatory practices against non-Jews.

The object of this monograph "is to contribute to the development in the West of an anti-Zionist moral understanding, political framework and climate of opinion as the best practical option to secure the welfare of both the Arab and Jewish peoples of Palestine as equal future Palestinian Arab and Palestinian Jewish citizens of Palestine."

The work is divided into an introduction and three chapters. In the first chapter, Davis discusses the state, citizenship and land. The second chapter is dedicated to a discussion of political repression in Israel, and in the last chapter Davis discusses what he calls the alternative — the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Analysis

A significant portion is allocated to the analysis of both

legal and political mechanisms through which access to national resources is an exclusive Jewish right. The Arab, that is, non-Jewish, population is legally and politically denied equal access to resources and services. Although there are similarities between the Zionist enterprise in Palestine and other colonial settler regimes such as the old Rhodesian, the white South African and other

native majority, although reduced to an inferior status, is recognised by law. On the other hand, Israel, which publicly accepted the United Nations' partition plan in 1947, and uses this immediate recognition by the international organisation as a source of its legitimacy, never fully implemented the provisions of the U.N. resolution. The Arab population, which was to live in the Jewish state, and which fled or was displaced as a result of the 1948 hostilities, was classified as non-existent. Furthermore, the law of Return applies only to Jews and these Arabs were prohibited from returning. Their dwellings, land, orchards and other holdings were confiscated to make room for the immigrant Jewish population. The problem becomes more acute when, as Davis shows, the Arabs who found themselves in a locality

other than the one of their origin inside their homeland, during the hostilities, were also classified as absentees and thus non-existent and stripped of their holding. Davis contends that the objectives of the Zionists have not been and are not exploitation but exclusion, which is ever more vicious and disastrous. Davis adds that the Arab population which remained in their homes, although not classified outside the law, are subject to subtle and sophisticated discrimination.

Prior to May 15, 1948, Jewish organisations such as the World Zionist Council, Jewish National Fund, labour organisations, and the like, were formed with the explicit objective of establishing a Jewish homeland on Palestine. Consequently, the constitutions and by-laws of these organisations were exclusivist. After 1948,

these organisations and their constitutions were incorporated into the body of the laws of Israel. Thus, the non-Jewish population of pre-1967 Israel is excluded from 92.6 per cent of the land and only Jews can have access to these lands, be it for agricultural purposes, as dwellings or for any other purpose.

Israel, a country without a constitution, has no explicit formal laws on the books that define these exclusivist practices. Yet a legal, formal apartheid system does and as Davis has shown, it is to be found in the constitutions and by-laws of the organisations that existed prior to 1948 and those of their successors.

Thus, it becomes very clear that the continuation of these practices (denial of access to

resources of the 1948 population) and increased military and political oppression of the Palestinian population now living under Israeli rule have one objective and that is to keep the state exclusively Jewish.

Davis asserts that Zionism is a system that cannot reform itself. It is a system in which the injustices committed against the native Arab are beyond remedy. He advocates instead a solution that ultimately would lead to the establishment of a binational secular state in Palestine.

Israel: An Apartheid State is a well researched and thoroughly documented work that destroys prevalent myths about Zionism and Israel. It is written by a very courageous man of great intellectual integrity.

— Al Nadwah.

Al Nadwah is a bulletin published by the World Affairs Council which is published in Amman.



Catherine Deneuve and Gerard Depardieu — two faces always to be seen at the Cannes festival.

Making it big at movies

By Elaine Ganley
The Associated Press

CANNES — The toxic avenger cavorts among topless bathers on the Cannes beachfront, just a stretch of sand from the darkened theatre where critics are weighing the latest entry at the 42nd international film festival.

The world's most prestigious showplace for the seventh art is also the industry's biggest marketplace. Movies like "The toxic avenger: part II," "Warlock" or "Video demons do psychotown" are promoted alongside those competing for the Golden Palm award.

In the incongruous reality that is Cannes, some of the movies in the official selection may die an artsy death at the box office, while those shown in backstreet theatres go on to blockbuster success.

"It's the first encounter of the first degree. The life and death of a motion picture is decided here," said Menahem Golan, a leading independent Hollywood producer-director. "And here I learn about the tastes of the world."

Tastes of the world

Thousands of producers, film makers and distributors from around the globe set up shop for two weeks each year in Cannes. They hawk their wares like so many tourists at stands in the basement of the Palais des Festivals, in hotel suites or, for those able to pay for an aloof but powerful presence, on yachts anchored offshore in the Mediterranean blue.

"Cannes to me combines business, show and glamour and that's the beauty of it," said Golan. "Cannes has the sunshine, the sea and the naked girls on the beach."

But it also has thousands of buyers, and thousands of journalists, he added. "You write about me and my films."

Giant movie banners are strung across the white facade of the Swank Carlton Hotel, which reigns like a grande dame over the Croisette, the waterfront boulevard. Inside, the lobby floor is overrun with stands and the

upstairs suites transformed into impromptu office space.

Having a suite at the Carlton for doing business "is like having box seats to a Mets game," said Rob Aft, acting international sales director for Troma, Inc., a small New York-based company that is becoming a major force in the exploitation film genre.

"We are never going to have an official selection at the Palais," he said. "But we're known here."

Troma is the creator of the Toxic Avenger, a former 44-kilogramme nerd named Melvin from Tromaville, New Jersey, transformed by chemical waste into a deformed and hulking hero.

In the first five days of the 13-day festival, Troma, which buys, sells and distributes movies, did about a half-million dollars in business and expected to close about \$2 million in deals at the festival's end May 23, according to Troma President Lloyd Kaufman.

\$20 million in a week

On the second day of the festival, Golan, no longer with Cannon, inaugurated his new company, 21st century, with the first announced deal in the Cannes marketplace, worth "Multi-millions." In less than a week, he said in an interview, he had closed more than \$20 million in deals, pre-sales on 20-film packages to countries like Spain, Australia, Greece, Belgium, the Netherlands, Portugal and Peru.

The market first sprang up around the festival 29 years ago and, organisers say, has grown into the world's largest. There are no official figures on transactions.

American film critic Roger Ebert says in his book about the Cannes festival, "two weeks in the midday sun," that he once came across a man who sold movies by the pound.

Golan, a physically imposing man whose brassy style — rainbow-coloured suspenders over a T-shirt — shines like the glitz of Cannes, cannot go unnoticed

here. He mounted the festival's most aggressive publicity blitz, with flyers strewn along the Croisette, dozens of daily full-page ads in the various festival trade journals and a large office on the ground floor of the Carlton for wheeling and dealing.

Golan talks up 21st century products like "Phantom of the opera" and "Mack the knife," starring Raul Julia, an adaptation of the noted stage musical "the three penny opera."

And he swears he is "getting out" of exploitation movies. "I think the public is growing up," he said. "I want to associate myself with what is considered the better product."

But also in 21st century's repertoire are movies like "Caged fury" and "Deceit," the latter billed as a sci-fi space comedy about a nuclear-armed alien sex fiend looking for earthly love.

The basement of the Palais des Festivals is honeycombed with booths selling everything from American soft porn to high-tone films from the Soviet Union and popular offerings from around the world.

Troma chief Kaufman, who has been coming to Cannes festivals since 1971, called it "a university of the movie business," adding, "you get a cram course in two weeks."

"Cannes is known for being a fairly conservative, artistic festival," said Aft, his assistant. People here are "very serious about the art of cinema."

"All the better for Troma," he added. "They make films. We make movies."

BOOK REVIEW

regimes that existed in history. Davis asserts that Zionism is far more radical. To prove his point, he draws an analogy between Zionist practices and South Africa's apartheid, the focus of the struggle of the anti-racist camp. On the level of citizenship, in South Africa for example, the non white

U.S. gunshops do brisk trade amid hot firearms debate

By Anne Senior
Reuters

MANASSAS, Virginia — In a brand new shopping centre west of Washington you can stock up on groceries, have your hair done and buy a gun.

Every week scores of families pass the old town armory gun bazaar, where revolvers, pistols, rifles and shotguns are on offer, and kids get free lollipops.

No permit is required to buy a gun in the state of Virginia, only proof of identity. A driving licence will suffice.

In theory a permit is required to carry a concealed weapon for which background checks are made for criminal record or history of mental illness. But purchasers are not asked why they are buying a weapon.

Old town armory staff deny there is anything sinister about their wares or the store location amid shops selling less lethal stock, saying their typical customer is not a budding rambo but an average American hunter or homeowner.

A row of rifles — sleek and simple or gold inlaid and fancily carved — stretches the full length of the store, where prices range from about \$150 for a basic revolver to over \$15,000 for a superior shotgun.

Boxes of ammunition are piled high and glass cases hold handguns of all shapes, colours and sizes. Some, just a few inches long, look like the kind a female spy might tuck in her stocking. Other models could easily feature in a police action series or cowboy movie.

But this is Virginia, farming and family country, not the Wild West. Though only a short drive from Washington, the town of Manassas with its new shopping arcade is a world away from the drug wars and the violence seen in the nation's capital.

But the crime wave which has branded Washington the nation's "murder capital" has left its mark here, too. In the gunstore you can pick up a brochure denouncing a recent crackdown on the gun trade.

In response to the record murder rate in Washington and last year's school massacre in Stockton, California, the government has restricted the flow of weapons into the country, effectively barring all imported semi-automatic rifles.

But only a few controls apply to domestic gun producers.

Preliminary statistics from the Federal Bureau of Investigation show that there were about 20,700 homicides in the United States in 1988, one every 25 minutes or so.

Figures for firearms use in 1988 murders are not yet available but in 1987 there were 10,566 recorded cases of people shot to death.

Gun control legislation limits firearm imports to sporting weapons, but debate rages over what fits into this category.

Police say rapid fire semi-automatics are military weapons. Gun enthusiasts say they are state-of-the-art sporting guns.

"Can you imagine the government ordering citizens to give up their word processors for goose quills and ink wells?" the pro-

gun brochure asks. "For most Americans it is impossible to imagine being forced to give up modern, effective and better products for throwbacks to the past."

NRA

The National Rifle Association (NRA), producer of the leaflet, is a powerful lobby group representing hunters and sportsmen across the country. It counts actor Charlton Heston and President George Bush among its supporters.

"The constitution gives Americans the right to freely choose to own a gun," said John Lenzi, a

researcher and writer with the NRA's institute for legislative action.

Lenzi accuses the media and anti-gun groups of discrediting legitimate sporting weapons by calling them "death machines." He fears if semi-automatics are banned then all other guns might follow.

But with studies showing more semi-automatics are being used in violent crime, then anti-gun lobby says it is gathering momentum.

"We feel a corner has been turned," said Michael Beard, President of the National Coal-

ition to Ban Handguns.

Sporting weapons should be kept on shooting ranges and anyone wanting to buy a gun should prove a need to be armed, Beard says.

For many Americans, steeped in the legend of the frontier, the gun has become an emblem of freedom and power.

"Guns may be a part of history, but they are more a part of myth," Beard countered. "It wasn't the gun that tamed the West but the plough and the schoolteacher."

Lenzi says withdrawing gun rights will put Americans at the

mercy of criminals.

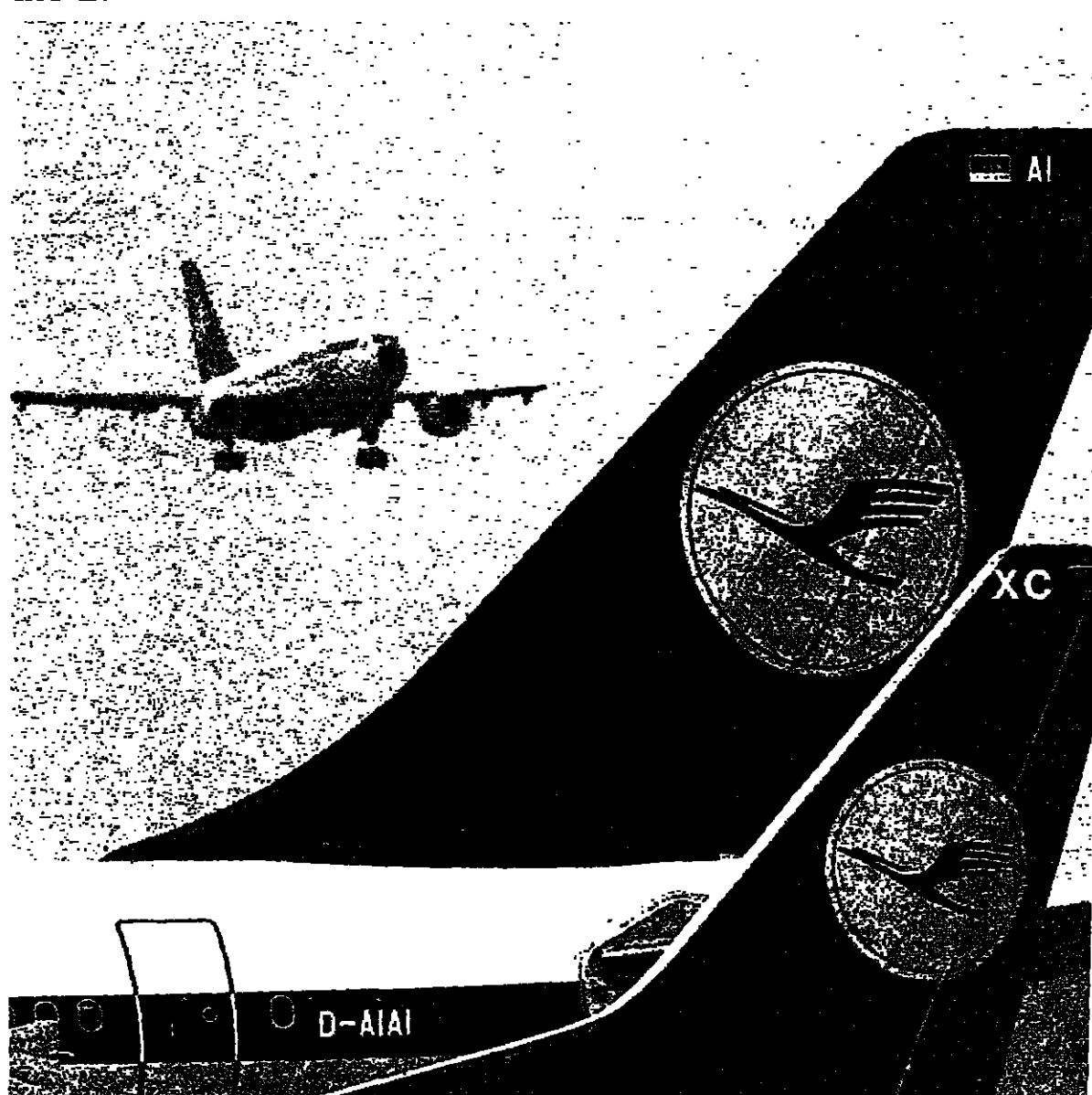
Staff of the old town armory say they support the rights of hunters to buy the latest weapons and of families to own handguns for protection.

General Manager Bruce Anderson says he does not feel a party to Washington's crime problem.

"Millions of sportsmen don't abuse guns, as millions drink but don't abuse alcohol," he told reporters.

"If you go down to Texas, you'll often see a gunstore opposite the liquor store, and liquor kills more people than guns."

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Cinema

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Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30, p.m.

China unrest sparks business jitters

PEKING (R) — Many foreign companies in China have prepared evacuation plans for their staff as they nervously watch continued unrest and political instability, businessmen and diplomats said Tuesday.

"In order to keep my people happy and productive, I've had to put a contingency plan in place to send all 20 of my expatriate staff and their families to Hong Kong or Manila if the situation gets dangerous," said the manager of a European company, who asked not to be named.

"There are company cars and drivers standing by 24 hours a day," he added.

"Absolutely there is concern. We have contingency plans... that's just normal prudent business," said Michael Strang, branch manager of IBM China Corporation.

Companies which have already evacuated staff because of weeks of pro-democracy protest and four days of martial law in Peking have done it unobtrusively in order to protect future business prospects in China, diplomats said.

"I know of several companies which moved scheduled home leave for staff several months forward to get people out, but they still call it home leave," a diplomat said.

Other businesses, encouraged by the generally peaceful nature of demonstrations and the government response, are waiting to see future developments.

"We're keeping our eyes and ears open," said Ted Bell, vice-president and chief representative of Boeing China.

"No one feels threatened right now, but if anything were to happen it would be too late then. It's a real problem, he added.

F. Fujino, manager of C. Itoh and Company's office in the capital, said he was not overly concerned about the situation.

"We have no plan to send staff back to Japan because nothing has happened," he said.

Both the Japanese School and the International School have been closed since Friday so children would not have to go out on the streets, foreign businessmen said.

"It's the uncertainty over the state of the government that is most worrying," said a U.S. businessman. "The situation could change instantaneously."

The mass protests have shaken Asian business confidence in the country, but while some businessmen fear a short-term crisis, few believe Peking's open-door trade policies are in danger.

Political strife in Peking has not yet hurt surging trade between China and its Asian neighbours, but nervous investors from Tokyo to Singapore are putting on hold plans to pump money into the Chinese economy, according to a survey by Reuters correspondents.

Events in China have highlighted the growing dependence on the China market of Asia's export-led economies and their concern with political stability in the country.

The economic threat is felt strongly in Japan, China's second largest trading partner after Hong Kong and the third biggest investor in the country after Hong Kong and the United States.



Top Chinese leaders (from left to right) Deng Xiaoping, Zhao Ziyang and Li Peng

Japanese companies have been feeling the pinch of recent Chinese austerity measures aimed at combating inflation.

"We already thought trade would decline this year. Now the trend will worsen," said an official at Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

Taro Takiguchi, a researcher at the Japan External Trade Organisation, said upheavals in Peking had "thrown cold water on investment in China."

The prosperity of Hong Kong has long been linked to the economy of China, soon to be its political overlord when Peking resumes sovereignty in 1997.

But businessmen in the British colony have lived through far worse crises in their giant neighbour and have learned to take a long-term, pragmatic view.

"Frankly, anyone involved in the China trade has to be patient, and Hong Kong investors are not that impulsive. It would take something very, very drastic before they abandoned that market," said Mary Wong, head of

the Hong Kong Trade Development Council's China section.

"If (Chinese premier) Li Peng turned around and really crunched up the students, then people will start wondering about the Chinese as reliable trading partners. But if anyone can weather the storm it's Hong Kong investors," analyst said.

Less confident are businessmen in Taiwan, who have charged into the China market with an enthusiasm dubbed by local newspaper as "China fever" since the Nationalist government relaxed bans on indirect trade and investment in the mainland last year.

Many Taiwan businessmen have recently come to view China as their economic saviour, a home for traditional industries forced off the island by a surging currency and rising wages.

"The pace of trade and investment growth from Taiwan to China will slow," said Lu Ming-Jen, a professor of economics at National Chengchi University.

Two-way trade between Taiwan and China, mostly con-

triumph.

"Barring major catastrophes, small-scale investments in China will continue," said Lee Bo-Kun, head of a private South Korean economic council dealing with China.

Bankers are confident that loans to China are safe.

"Whatever happens, we're encouraged by the fact in the past China has had a pretty good record of honouring foreign debt," said Peter Kom of Barclays Bank China division in Hong Kong.

Singapore businessmen are taking a "wait-and-see attitude," a trade official said. "If the unrest continues, disruption is bound to happen. But it hasn't happened yet."

Shanghai workers join protests

In Shanghai, tens of thousands of workers have joined the campaign for democracy in what workers say is a collapse of confidence in the central Chinese government.

The number of workers involved in the campaign, which has paralysed China's leadership and sparked a fierce power struggle between hardliners and reformists, has been far higher than in student protests in 1986.

"I watched the protests in late 1986," said a textile worker demonstrating in front Shanghai's Communist Party headquarters Tuesday. "Now I'm taking part because I've lost all confidence in the leadership."

Workers from a number of other factories in various industries in Shanghai echoed his sentiments.

"A lot has changed since 1986. We had hope for reform then but we don't now," said another worker as he joined 20,000 people in a demonstration to demand democracy and the removal of Premier Li Peng and senior leader Deng Xiaoping.

The students were unhappy in 1986 but now there seems to be something for everyone to complain about," said a Western diplomat in Shanghai.

Diplomats quoted workers as saying that several hundred labourers met Monday to discuss a possible general strike.

Some workers say violence in Peking, parts of which have been under martial law for four days, could trigger industrial action in Shanghai.

Productivity at many plants across the city has already plummeted, workers said.

Fierce complaints

Many workers are angered by high inflation, a record since the 1949 communist takeover, which reached an official 18.5 per cent nationally and 30 per cent in major cities last year according to official statistics.

"It takes three years of wages, assuming I don't spend anything, to buy a colour television," said a worker in disgust.

"We make extra money in bonuses for extra production but the government takes most of it away in special taxes," said a machinery worker. "Where is the incentive to work?"

Analysts said Compaq's new models represent an assault by relatively inexpensive desktops on terrain once held exclusively by the minicomputers of IBM and Digital, which sell in the \$100,000 range. Jobs that once needed a minicomputer can now be tackled by a personal computer or its high-powered cousin, the engineering workstation.

This trend has played a big role in the slump plaguing the mini-computer industry, where many second-tier players — including Wang Laboratories Inc. and Data General Corp. — are on the ropes.

Digital was hurt by the announcement late Friday that the company will freeze salaries beginning with its new fiscal year starting on July 2.

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Aqaba seminar focuses on boosting investments

AMMAN (J.T.) — A week-long economic seminar held in Aqaba recently has urged the government to create a special unit provided with statistical data and other information to help investors take the right decisions.

The seminar, which was organised in the port city by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Institute of Public Administration (IPA), was attended by 30 participants representing the private and public sectors in the Kingdom.

A statement, at the end of the

seminar, urged the government to encourage individual initiatives and give incentives to the local or non-Jordanian investor.

The participants recommended that a special body be created in the form of a council or an economic committee, grouping both sectors, to coordinate matters and to provide new ideas for investments.

Such a committee, they said, can explain to the investors the various facilities offered to them by the government the country's priorities in economic develop-

ment.

IPA Director-General Abdullah Ulayyan said that the participants, who were all executives or director generals in their respective departments, were encouraged to exchange views related to their businesses and had the chance to analyse and discuss in detail various aspects of cooperation between the private and public sectors.

He said that the private sector's contribution to socio-economic development and opportunities for investments and incentives

were among the topics discussed.

The participants, Ulayyan added, focused their attention on the government's recent measures and their effects on the role of the private sector as well as the role of financial institutions in promoting economic and trade activities in the Kingdom.

Ulayyan said that 10 working papers were reviewed on those topics and others that included marketing and exports, the effects of competition in boosting trade and a number of local case studies.

Dollar becalmed at 29-month highs

LONDON (Agencies) — The dollar was becalmed at 29-month-highs Tuesday amid signs that Washington might act to end the U.S. currency's sharp climb this month.

A Washington Post report Tuesday suggested that the U.S. Federal Reserve (central bank) might ease American interest rates, a major factor in the dollar's strength so far this year.

It quoted White House Budget Director Richard Darman as saying he thought the Federal Reserve (Fed) could take such steps and it said this view was "gaining support within the administration."

Dealers said the market was digesting the report and speculation that Japan and Britain might also raise interest rates to defend their currencies.

West Germany might take a similar step, but not before the next regular meeting of the Bundesbank council on June 1.

There was also speculation that the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations — the U.S., Japan, West Germany, Canada, Britain, France and Italy — might meet to tighten policy on exchange rate coordination.

All seven states will be in Paris next week for a meeting of the 24-nation Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the West's economic think-tank, and the dollar is certain to be discussed.

The G-7's policy was enshrined in the so-called Louvre Accord of February 1987, but that pact, which aimed to restrict currency movements within secret limits, looks increasingly flimsy as the

market calls the dollars' tune.

The dollar traded above two marks and 140 yen Tuesday (See *London Exchange Rates*), barriers it crossed Monday in a surge that has seen it rise by some 14 per cent since the start of the year.

"Demand for dollars is good under two marks," said one Frankfurt trader. "A dollar below that is just an excuse to buy."

The demand comes from investors attracted by high U.S. interest rates and businesses buying the currency to cover requirements in case it goes up again.

If there is no decisive action to drag it down, the dollar's next move can only be upwards towards 2.25 marks, dealers said.

Market talk has shifted to the likelihood of a rise in base interest rates because of the inability of central banks to influence the market using the traditional weapon of intervention.

Central banks have vainly

spent billions of dollars to knock the dollar from its perch but this means "central banks to continue to fulfil their function of supplying the market with cheap dollars," in the words of one London economist.

A strong dollar spreads inflation by making U.S. exports more expensive for its trading partners. It makes American imports cheaper, swelling the already worrying U.S. trade deficit.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady said Monday that international turmoil has triggered demand for the U.S. dollar as a safe investment haven and has been a key factor in the currency's recent surge in foreign exchange.

In an interview with the Milwaukee Journal, Brady said massive buying that pushed the dollar had to be viewed in terms of world unrest.

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ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Cairo, IMF to resume talks in June

CAIRO (R) — Negotiations between Egypt and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) over economic reform and debt rescheduling are expected to resume early next month, Cairo newspapers reported Tuesday. The talks should help Egypt extricate itself from foreign debts estimated by bankers at about \$50 billion. The IMF insists on several reforms to be implemented over a specific period, including a cut in the budget deficit estimated by some diplomats as 10 billion pounds (\$4 billion) for the current financial year ending in June. Egypt has resisted tough reforms within a given timescale for fear of sparking unrest similar to 1977 riots sparked by food price rises. Instead, it prefers to carry out changes gradually. Egypt hopes for a new standby credit agreement with the IMF to persuade western creditors to reschedule about \$5 billion in debt payments owed by the end of June.

Arab shipyard plans expansion

BAHRAIN (R) — An Arab shipbuilding and repair yard is planning to build a new drydock to cash in on a boom ushered in by the Iran-Iraq ceasefire and higher ship prices worldwide. The general manager of the Bahrain-based Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard (ASRY), told Reuters a feasibility study was underway and a decision was likely by the end of July. Plans to buy a 100,000-tonne floating dock had been scrapped, he said, but the firm was now studying proposals for three types of drydocks to service ships ranging from 80,000 to 200,000 deadweight tonnes.

World Bank insists on adjustments

HONG KONG (R) — The World Bank will support a U.S. initiative to reduce debt among developing nations if they take tough steps to improve their economies, the bank's treasurer said Monday. Donald Roth, on a visit to Hong Kong, said the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund were preparing guidelines on a proposal by U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker to encourage commercial banks to forgive debt and allow debtor nations to get back on their feet. "Does the bank support the Brady initiative? Yes. But the absolute precondition for World Bank involvement is that debtors undertake a medium-term structural adjustment programme that is acceptable to us," Roth told reporters. "If medium term adjustment can't be effected because the debt burden is too high, then we are prepared to help with debt reduction." The initiative has been criticised by some developing countries for favouring those countries who have shirked unpopular economic reforms. Those who have dealt responsibly with their debt will not receive any benefits, they say.

World tea production surges

WASHINGTON (AP) — World tea production last year climbed to a record 2.42 million tonnes, up three per cent from 1987, the Agriculture Department has announced. The bumper harvest resulted from favourable growing conditions and new plantings coming into production in several countries, the department's Foreign Agricultural Service said in a report. Larger crops were reported from India, Sri Lanka, China, Kenya and Malawi. Tea output in Mozambique and Uganda remained at low levels, "reflecting unstable political and economic conditions," the report said. Tea production in some areas of the Soviet Union continue to be affected by the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear plant accident, the report said. Consequently, the Soviets have had to increase imports to meet domestic requirements. U.S. tea imports in 1988 increased 16 per cent to 90,144 tonnes valued at \$129 million. Even so, last year's increase to replenish inventories left 1988 total tea imports slightly below the 1986 level of 90,549 tonnes valued at \$133.6 million, the report said. "Preliminary data indicate that U.S. retail food store tea sales continued to fall in 1988 as consumers showed their preference for soft drinks, fruit juices and alcoholic beverages," the report said.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, May 23, 1989 Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	French franc	78.9	80.4
Pound Sterling	846.0	856.7	Japanese yen (for 100)	376.6	386.9
Deutschemark	366.8	372.1	Dutch guilder	236.8	241.5
Swiss franc	298.6	304.8	Swedish crown	79.4	80.8
			Italian lira (for 100)	36.7	37.4
			Belgian franc (for 100)	127.5	129.9

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

		U.S. dollar
One Sterling	1.5780/90	
One U.S. dollar	1.1970/80	Canadian dollar
	2.0070/80	Deutschemark
	2.2620/30	Dutch guilders
	1.7825/35	Swiss francs
	41.98/42.02	Belgian francs
	6.7690/8010	French francs
	1455/1456	Italian lire
	6.7475/7525	Japanese yen
	7.2125/75	Swedish crowns
	7.8200/50	Norwegian crowns
	363.50/363.90	Danish crowns
		U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Consolidating recent gains made on the lower Australian dollar, the All Ordinaries index rose 2.6 points to 1,582.8. News Corp soared 60 cents to 14.85.

TOKYO — The 225-share Nikkei index fell 251.25 points to 33,816.61 on a dollar surge against the yen. Investors feared a weak yen could quicken inflation and boost interest rates.

HONG KONG — Stocks rebounded sharply in massive volume on favourable news about the unrest in China. The Hang Seng index, which lost almost 340 points Monday, closed 261.08 points higher at 3,067.65.

SINGAPORE — Prices rebounded in the afternoon on short-covering and bargain-hunting. The Straits Times industrial index shed 0.82 of a point to close at 1,291.92.

BOMBAY — Share prices recovered from early losses to rally strongly at the close on heavy speculative demand. Hindustan Aluminium rose 12.5 rupees to 292.5 and Associated Cement 4.5 to 326.

FRANKFURT — Export-oriented car and chemical stocks again led shares higher. But BMW lagged the rest of the market after announcing a one-for-20 rights issue. The DAX index rose 6.7 to 1,351.80.

ZURICH — Prices closed generally weaker in quiet trading because of uncertainty about the short-term trend in currency markets and in interest rates. The Swiss performance index fell 2.2 to 1,007.1.

PARIS — Prices ended slightly weaker on the last day of the present account in fairly active trading.

LONDON — Prices stayed weak in late trading, reflecting Wall Street's path, as fears of higher U.K., West German and Japanese interest rates in the face of dollar strength continued to bite. By 1519 GMT the FTSE index was down 12.7 to 2,156.3.

NEW YORK — Stocks in mid-morning were around their lows of the session on news of a larger than expected rise in April durable goods orders. The Dow was down 13 at 2,489.

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Joseph Villadiago, piano

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SUBSTANTIAL REWARD FOR MISSING DOG

A black Doberman Pinscher with brown markings was lost near the 8th Circle, Friday 19 May.

If anyone have seen or knows the whereabouts of a dog fitting description, please contact 644371 ext. 202.

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Mao portrait vandalised amid calls for resignation of Li

Peking protests continue as hapless army withdraws

PEKING (R) — Troops withdrew from many positions on the capital's outskirts Tuesday as 100,000 marchers, undaunted by rain, chanted their hatred of hardline Premier Li Peng who sent the military to suppress their revolt.

The focus of the marchers' hatred, the 61-year-old Li, was widely reported to be locked in a power struggle with the Communist Party's reformist wing headed by party leader Zhao Ziyang. But the eventual outcome of the struggle was as murky as the capital's weather, which suddenly changed from brilliant sunshine to thunderstorms as the marchers moved down Peking's Avenue of Eternal Peace.

During the march, three men splattered paint on the world-famous portrait of the late Chairman Mao Tseung on Tiananmen Gate, the Gate of the Heavenly Peace, overlooking the city's central square.

Students quickly denied responsibility and by mid-evening the defaced portrait was replaced by another.

"We want democracy not tanks," shouted the protesters from all segments of Chinese life — students, workers, professionals, even employees of government ministries.

Li, a pudgy Moscow-trained engineer, imposed martial law on

Peking Saturday and ordered troops to quell a student-led revolt that has touched off the biggest wave of anti-government protests across China since the communists took power in 1949.

Troop columns, some backed by armour, advanced as far as the city's suburbs and were immobilised by huge crowds of Pekingers who pleaded with the troops not to advance on the city centre to enforce martial law.

State television's evening news bulletin broadcast an interview with an army captain sitting amidst his heavily armed troops on the outskirts of the capital. "We will never shoot the people," the officer said. "We are very tolerant."

But the official New China News Agency transmitted a headline statement from a spokesman of the "army martial law enforcement headquarters" harshly criticising the "handful of people with ulterior motives" who have blocked the troops.

In another confusing signal perhaps reflecting the disarray of China's ruling elite, the govern-

ment Tuesday evening allowed foreign television networks to resume live broadcasts from Peking. Live transmissions were cut Saturday.

The current popular revolt began May 13 when 1,000 students began a week-long hunger strike for democratic reforms in Peking's 40-hectare main Tiananmen Square.

Tuesday afternoon's march down the main street of the capital, the Avenue of Eternal Peace, began in brilliant late-spring sunshine with marchers chanting "Li Peng is an enemy of the people."

One marcher carried a pole from which was suspended a toy monkey hanging by its neck. A placard on the stuffed animal read: "Li Peng."

After the dramatic defacement of Mao's portrait, one of Chinese communism's most revered icons, workmen hurriedly covered it with a canvas tarpaulin. A few minutes later, the sky suddenly darkened, lightning flashed and driving rain soaked the square.

Eyewitnesses said three suspects were seized by students, and — in an illustration of who is in control of Peking — were brought to the student high command on the Monument to the Peoples Heroes in the centre of the Square.

The three men, who students said were from the central pro-

vince of Hunan, were interrogated for about 30 minutes, paraded around the Square by student marshals and then apparently released.

Virtually the only uniformed official presence in the heart of Peking are the white-uniformed traffic police, and even they have been assisted in their duties by students.

State television reported on Tuesday that life in Peking was relatively normal with most public transport running near usual schedules.

Subway services, cut since Saturday, were partly restored Tuesday and would be fully operational by Wednesday, it said.

Leading intellectuals from China's most famous think-tank, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, led Tuesday's protest. They accused Li of staging a military coup in his struggle against Zhao. "People unite and break the militaristic coup," read one poster. "Bury the cult of the individual. End old peoples' politics," read another.

A bus designed by the Central Academy of Fine Arts broadcast for a free press. A painting on the bus showed red lips crisscrossed by two rifles. "We will not be silenced," read one slogan.

The rain ended most of the protest suddenly.



A 14-YEAR-OLD cancer patient is comforted by his mother as he waits in sweltering summer heat outside one of New Delhi's hospitals where junior

doctors are on indefinite strike. The boy, who lives 400 km from Delhi, is one of thousands of patients hit by a strike for more money by doctors.

Striking doctors put up makeshift clinics in Delhi

NEW DELHI (AP) — Striking government doctors are treating patients at makeshift clinics outside major hospitals and distributing free medicines as negotiations continued to end their weeklong agitation for more pay.

Dr. Rohit Parasher, a strike leader, told reporters Monday the clinics were operated "as an expression of our deep anguish and concern for our patients."

The indefinite strike that began Tuesday by about 5,000 doctors has forced government hospitals to turn away many patients because of insufficient medical staff. Parasher said more than 4,000 people came for treatment in the makeshift clinics, set up in tents outside nine of the city's 11 hospitals. Usually, about 32,000 people visit outpatient departments of the hospitals every day, he said.

Free medicines were given to the patients and the clinics will be operated until the strike ends, he said.

He said a doctors' team representing more than 5,000 physicians was meeting Health Ministry officials. A ministry official, who cannot be identified under briefing rules, confirmed discussions were underway but gave no details.

Earlier wage negotiations ended in a deadlock last Monday and the next day more than 3,500 doctors in Delhi walked off. More than 1,400 doctors at government hospitals also went on strike in the cities of Chandigarh, Pondicherry, Banaras and Allahabad.

Parasher said the last round of talks held late Sunday ended "on a positive note, but it would be premature to make any commit-

ment."

The strikers are asking for pay raises, higher allowances for not being allowed to maintain private practices and firm schedules for promotion.

The striking doctors are junior hospital staffers. Nearly all are resident physicians. Emergency cases have been handled by senior doctors since the strike began.

The doctors are asking for an increase of 850 rupees (\$53) a month in their pay. They now earn between 3,200 rupees (\$200) and 4,300 rupees (\$269) a month. They also want the government to increase their allowance for not maintaining private practice from 250 rupees (\$16) a month to 650 rupees (\$40). Doctors working for the government are not allowed to have private practices to supplement their incomes.

COLUMN 8000000

Masked raiders free animals

LYON, France (R) — Anti-vivisectionists freed hundreds of monkeys, dogs and rabbits from a laboratory in southern France and said Monday the animals were under care at a secret hide-away. The anti-vivisectionists, wearing animal masks, defended their commando action in a video they made during Saturday's raid on the national research laboratory in Lyon. It was broadcast by several television channels. The raiders, who used tranquilliser darts to quieten the animals, said they were forced to act once they had seen conditions in the laboratory. "It's a question of morality, sensitivity and human intelligence," said one member of the group, which calls itself "Noah's Ark."

Hoax autobiography nets \$5,000

HOUSTON (AP) — The only known manuscript copy of Clifford Irving's phony Howard Hughes autobiography sold at auction for \$5,000. The manuscript was sold Sunday along with other Hughes memorabilia, including an album containing several unpublished photographs of the reclusive billionaire on his record-setting, round-the-world airplane flight. The buyer of the manuscript would not give his name. Irving in the early 1970s duped a publisher out of \$650,000 by claiming he had compiled an autobiography of Hughes based on 100 secret meetings. The meetings never took place, and Irving served 18 months in jail for the fraud. The 989-page manuscript includes the forged signatures of Hughes and other notations, once authenticated by leading handwriting experts. A New York court had ordered all copies of the manuscript destroyed except Irving's, the one purchased Sunday. Irving asked Ray Simpson, owner of Simpson's antiques, to auction the document.

Italian probe hints at bomb behind 1980 disaster

ROME (R) — An Italian Commission of Inquiry has revived a possibility that a bomb, not a missile, blew up an airliner over the Mediterranean in 1980 killing 81 people.

The government commission also criticised Libya for giving "evasive responses" to its inquiries, according to a summary of the report released Monday by the office of caretaker Prime Minister Ciriaco de Mita.

It said Libya was the only country to be questioned which

had not excluded having aircraft in the area when a DC-9 of the now-defunct domestic airline Itavia broke up over the sea near the island of Ustica, off the coast of Sicily, in June 1980.

The commission's conclusions conflicted with the findings of six crash and explosives experts who reported to a magistrate investigating the case in March that the plane was hit by an air-to-air missile. The experts exclude the theory of a bomb on board. They said they could not iden-

tify who fired the missile. The government commission said the crash was caused "by an explosive object."

It said the experts' conclusion about the missile should be taken into due consideration. But it added: "The theory that the accident was caused by an explosive device aboard the plane cannot be discarded."

It described as "somewhat precarious" security at Bologna airport on the night the plane left for Palermo. The commission said there

were no North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) air or sea manoeuvres in the area at the time.

It ruled out any link between the DC-9 crash and the discovery later of a crashed Libyan MiG-23 fighter in the mountains of southern Italy.

The separate judicial inquiry by the investigating magistrate is still under way.

Defence Minister Valerio Zanone has said inquiries show the Italian armed forces could not have shot down the plane.

Ligachev hits back at corruption charges

MOSCOW (R) — Former Kremlin number two Yegor Ligachev, implicated in a widening probe into top-level corruption, has accused investigators of trying to discredit the Communist Party leadership.

In a statement to the party's Central Committee reported by the Soviet news agency TASS Tuesday, Ligachev attacked Nikolai Ivanov, an investigator at the Soviet prosecutor's office who caused a storm this month by saying Ligachev was under investigation.

"I regard this assertion as a provocation and malicious invention," Ligachev told Monday's plenary session of the policy-making Central Committee which was otherwise devoted to this week's inaugural session of the new Soviet Parliament.

"The assertion was made in order to discredit the current party leadership and for the purpose of political career," he added, saying the accusations affected not only his own honour and dignity but also that of the ruling Politburo.

I would request the party Politburo to examine these facts," Ligachev said.

A growing political controversy has been raging in the last few weeks over Ivanov and his boss,



Yegor Ligachev

Telman Gdlyan, in what has been described by Yegor Yakovlev, the editor of the newspaper Moscow News, as a Watergate-in-the-making.

The two, both elected to the new parliament, have drawn enormous public support with their massive corruption probe which led to the conviction in December of Yuri Churbanov, son-in-law of former leader Leonid Brezhnev.

The six-year-old investigation was initially centred on organised crime in Uzbekistan, in Soviet central Asia.

But the authorities have now accused the investigators of "rude violations of Socialist legality" and ordered an investigation into their methods.

NATO chief favours limited SNF talks

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Secretary-General Manfred Woerner said in an interview published Tuesday he favoured talks with the East bloc to reduce short-range nuclear weapons but did not want them eliminated altogether.

Woerner's comments, in an interview with La Libre Belgique newspaper, appeared as the NATO allies strove to hammer out a compromise over short-range nuclear forces (SNF) weapons to preserve unity at a NATO summit here May 29 and 30.

The United States and West Germany, key players in the dispute, have exchanged proposals for a compromise on whether, and when, talks should be held with the Soviet bloc to cut SNF weapons.

Woerner, a former West German defence minister, suggested linking such talks to negotiations in Vienna on cutting conventional weapons stocks.

"My feeling is that it would be very useful to establish a link between the Vienna negotiations and those that might take place on the SNF," he said.

But he opposed the elimination of all NATO's short-range nuclear weapons, which include missiles and artillery.

"The SNF are part of a strategy of the alliance which has prevented not only nuclear wars but also conventional wars. We need a mix of conventional and nuclear weapons not to cause wars but to prevent them."

"The SNF represent an important and irreplaceable part of our arsenal," he said.

Woerner said he was hopeful a solution to the SNF dispute could be worked out before the NATO summit. The United States and West Germany are due to hold high-level contacts at the weekend.

West Germany, where most of NATO's short-range arms are deployed, has run foul of the United States and Britain by seeking a delay in modernising the alliance's 88 Lance launchers and by pressing for speedy talks to reduce SNF weapons to lower, equal levels.

A proposed U.S. compromise would put off until 1992 any NATO decision on deploying a new short-range missile. But Bonn would have to drop its demand for early SNF talks in favour of negotiations after progress had been achieved at the Vienna conventional arms talks.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has said he will maintain contact with U.S. President George Bush in hopes of solving the dispute.

Kohl told reporters Monday he had sent a letter to Bush and expected to telephone the president this week for further discussions on the missile issue which NATO leaders seek to defuse before the summit.

Bush predicted Sunday the United States and West Germany would be able to reach a compromise on the dispute before the alliance leaders meet in Brussels.

Kohl told reporters after talks in Bonn with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, an ally in the missile row: "We are still in the course of discussions with our partners in NATO and so I will not talk about it publicly here."

Undeterred by outcry, pageant marches on

CANCUN, Mexico (R) — Undeterred by feminist outcry and motivated by a \$300,000 jackpot 76 young women from around the globe compete for the title of "Miss Universe" Tuesday night in one of the world's great beauty pageants.

In a commercial television event organisers say will reach more than 600 million viewers in over 60 countries, the contestants have few illusions about what is in store for them.

"It's a job just like any job. You can't walk around with your head in the air thinking 'I'm the most beautiful woman in the world'. With another jury there would be another 'Miss Universe', front-runner Angela Visser, 22, the current Miss Holland, told Reuters.

Even Miss El Salvador, representing a country known more for its violence than its flowers, seeks to send a national message while enjoying the razzamatazz surrounding the international con-

test. "I want to show a different face of my country. We have to find something good to say about it," said 19-year-old Lucia Lopez, a nutrition student from San Salvador.

The "cattle market" label pinned by feminists on contests such as Miss Universe annoys many of the women gathered here to reveal their charms to a world audience.

"It's family entertainment, it's not harming anyone, it's a shame (that there should be such animosity), said Andrea Jones, 23, Miss Wales.

Living for a month in Cancun, devastated by hurricane Gilbert last September, the young women all emphasise the friendships they have made during their time together.

"The only problem is that the girls get sick easily. It must be the heat," said Cynthia Yuk Lui Cheung, 19, Miss Hong Kong.

New approach may eliminate mastectomies

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — By shrinking tumors with medicine before surgery, doctors may be able to eliminate most mastectomies as the standard treatment for breast cancer, a leading cancer researcher said Monday.

Dr. Gianni Bonadonna of the National Cancer Institute of Italy said his study showed that the new approach could eliminate the need for mastectomies in 87 per cent of women who otherwise would have had this mutilating surgery.

In recent years, doctors have slowly switched to removing just the lump, not the whole breast, when the tumor is small. However, this conservative surgery is not usually con-

sidered possible when tumors are large.

The latest strategy involves shrinking big tumors first with chemotherapy so they are small enough to be taken out with a breast-saving operation called a lumpectomy, which generally leaves about three-quarters of the breast intact. The chemotherapy is the same as that commonly used after surgery.

The procedure was outlined by Bonadonna at the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

Bonadonna predicted that by 1994, the 100th anniversary of the radical mastectomy, this common operation "will be very, very rare."

Surgeons frequently recommend against trying to spare breasts containing larger tumors because too little healthy tissue is left to save and because they fear the cancer will be more likely to spread to other parts of the body.

So far, Bonadonna and colleagues in Italy have used the new procedure on 97 patients beginning in January 1988. Although none of their cancers have returned, other experts caution that much longer follow-up will be necessary to know whether this approach is as good as mastectomies at saving lives.

Despite recent studies showing that for small tumors, at least, breast-sparing surgery

appears to be safe, some physicians remain sceptical.

"I think there is still a lot of place for mastectomy," because the chances of cure may be better, commented Dr. Hendre Falkson of the University of Pretoria in South Africa.

While cautious, some other physicians said they found Bonadonna's findings intriguing.

"This challenges the conventional treatment," said Dr. Nikolay Dimitrov of Michigan State University. "It may provide a revolutionary change in the treatment of breast cancer."

Added Dr. Jules Harris of Rush Cancer in Chicago: "I

think it's interesting and exciting and will give rise to a great deal with clinical investigation."

In Bonadonna's study, chemotherapy was given to women whose breast tumors were bigger than three centimetres. The drugs could bring them down below three centimetres in 87 per cent of the women.

The largest tumor was over 10 centimetres across and was shrunken small enough so doctors could perform a lumpectomy. The average size of the tumors before treatment was five centimetres.

After the operations, the doctors treated the women with radiation therapy and additional chemotherapy.

Global weather (major world cities)

	TEMP.	WIND	WEATHER
AMSTERDAM	12-14	24-26	75-78 Cloud
ATHENS	15-20	25-27	77-81 Clear
BAHRAIN	25-27	77-81	87-91 Clear
BARCELONA	18-24	24-26	75-78 Cloudy
BEIRUT	18-24	24-26	75-78 Cloudy
Buenos Aires	18-24	24-26	75-78 Cloudy
Cairo	18-24	24-26	75-78 Cloudy
CHICAGO	09-19	23-25	72-76 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	10-15	20-22	68-72 Clear
FRANKFURT	11-12	22-24	72-76 Clear
GENOVA	13-15	22-24	72-76 Clear
HONG KONG	28-28	77-77	81-81 Clear
ISTANBUL	12-14	24-26	75-78 Cloudy
KUALA LUMPUR	23-25	75-77	83-85 Clear
LONDON	16-21	27-29	81-85 Clear
LOS ANGELES	15-20	25-27	77-81 Cloudy
MADRID	15-20	25-27	77-81 Cloudy
MECCA	27-31	81-85	90-94 Cloudy
MILAN	15-18	23-25	72-76 Clear
MONTREAL	15-18	23-25	72-76 Clear
NEW DELHI	27-31	81-85	90-94 Clear
NEW YORK	27-31	81-85	90-94 Clear
PARIS	17-22	27-29	81-85 Clear
ROME	12-14	24-26	75-78 Clear
TOKYO	15-18	23-25	72-76 Clear
VIENNA	14-17	27-29	81-85 Clear